Thursday, September 6, 2007 44 7 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 270 P10

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

WHERE COUNTRYSIDE BEGINS: Right there on the Abiao Bridge in Hermosa, Bataan, a farmer feeds his goats.

NERI tells Arnold Ojeda and Ali Serra of "Dobol A sa Dobol B" on the alleged P200-M bribe offer: It's really difficult for me to say yes or no. Later, he tells the INQUIRER, I cannot talk about it right now.

Neri doesn't confirm, deny ₱200-M bribe

He also says it's DOTC which should answer concerns

By Michael Lim Ubac and Christine O. Avendaño

FORMER SOCIOECONOMIC PLANNING SECRETARY Romulo Neri yesterday refused to confirm or deny that he was offered a P200-million bribe to support the controversial national broadband network (NBN) project that Chinese telecommunications giant ZTE won.

"I don't know. I cannot talk about it right now," he told the INQUIRER, pointing out that he could not comment "on a speculative issue."

But Neri said he would talk when properly summoned by Congress.

Earlier, in an interview yesterday morning, ex-radio dzRB host Arnold Ojeda suggested he could have retired and gone on cruise if he had accepted the alleged P200-million bribe, to which Neri replied: "I won't do that. It will be in my conscience and I believe in bad karma."

In the dzRB interview, Neri also said, when asked on the supposed bribery: "It's really difficult for me to say yes or no. It's difficult to answer either way."

Radio Host Sen. Bobby Ilagan said he was considering getting the testimony of Neri to support an impeachment complaint he had threatened to file against Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos over Abalos' supposed role in the deal.

The National Economic and Development Authority (Neda) board, presided over by President Macapagal-Arroyo herself, approved the ₱400-project, Neri told the INQUIRER.

"The Neda approved the broadband

MISCELLANEOUS A6

FOR HOPE, COUNTRY AND BABY, TOO: Ensign Jeffrey Legaspi of the Philippine Navy plants a farewell kiss on his wife Ofel, Genesis Maritana, before departing for Basilan with the other members of the 1st Naval Mobile Construction Battalion and the 18th Aviation Engineering Wing of the Philippine Air Force to carry out the humanitarian offensive ordered by President Arroyo.

Business, FVR, Enrile, Ermita on Erap verdict

THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY WILL BE disappointed if Joseph Estrada is acquitted by the Sandiganbayan of plunder, a securities analyst said yesterday.

But it will also be disappointed if the ousted President is convicted and subsequently pardoned by President Macapagal-Arroyo, said Artie del Castillo, a director of the Association of Securities Analysts of the Philippines.

"It's the right opportunity to create a model to go after graft," Del Castillo told the INQUIRER.

"Reconciliation will always be there. But we have a long list of pardoned

BUSINESS A-1

CA upholds murder raps vs Leviste

By Leila B. Salaverria

FORMER BATANGAS GOV. JOSE ANTONIO Leviste will continue to be charged with murder, with the Court of Appeals dismissing his petition questioning the reinvestigation of his case and the upgrading of the initial charge of homicide.

In a decision issued on Aug. 30, the appellate court upheld the finding of Senior State Prosecutor Emmanuel

CA UPHOLDS A8

GMA set to have 20-minute meeting with Bush tomorrow

By Julius Ludwig Jandiana

SYDNEY—PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-Arroyo will have a 20-minute meeting with US President George W. Bush tomorrow on the sidelines of the Apec summit this weekend that is expected to set directions for climate change, human security and trade.

Ms Arroyo is expected to arrive here at 9 p.m. today to join the 20 other leaders of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation.

The Bush-Arroyo meeting will take place at the Intercontinental Sydney Hotel right after a lunch hosted by the US president for seven attending leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. Ms Arroyo is this year's chair of the Asean.

Shortly before the Bush-Arroyo

MM SEE A6

Joma not covered by amnesty, says Esperon

By Cynthia D. Balana

SELF-EXILED COMMUNIST LEADER Jose Ma. Sison may not be covered by an amnesty proclamation for communist rebels which Malacañang will issue soon, according to Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon.

Interviewed by the Inquirer during the celebration of the 46th National Day of Malaysia on Tuesday night, Esperon said he decided if Sison himself would avail of the amnesty proclamation.

Esperon pointed out that Sison was being tried in The Netherlands for ordering the assassination in the Philippines of his former comrades, a crime under Dutch law.

"I think he will not be covered. It's The Netherlands that is charging him with felonious acts. So, may not be cov

JOMA SEE A6

Lomibao named to Berroya's job at LTO

By Michael Lim Ubac

ON THE EVE OF HER DEMOTION for an Asia-Pacific summit in Sydney, President Macapagal-Arroyo has effected another round of changes in her official family.

She broadened the powers of Solicitor General Agnes Devanadera as the Department of Justice by naming her acting secretary, and kicked upstairs Land Transportation Office chief Reynaldo Berroya by designating him undersecretary in charge of the Department of Transportation and Communications, according to a Malacañang announcement.

Berroya was replaced at the LTO by another key ally of the Arroyo administration, retired Philippine National Police chief

LOMIBAO A6

WHAT'S INSIDE

WORLD / A19
"Chemical Ali" sentenced to death by hanging

WORLD / A20
Germany, Denmark foil attacks on Frankfurt airport, US hub

SPORTS / A24
Nadal crashes out of US Open in huge upset

Protesters Down Under to show Bush bottom line

SYDNEY—A GIANT EFFIGY OF AUSTRALIAN antiwar activists is planning a cheeky protest against a visit by US President George W. Bush—starring bottoms in what is hoped will be a world-record event.

Organizer Phil Saunders said the protest horse now was ahead of lightening the mood in Sydney, a city currently patrolled by 5,000 police and soldiers and divided by a massive steel and concrete fence ahead of the Asia-Pacific Eco-

PROTESTERS A6

PROTEST AND PERIOD: Women protest at the anti-Bush rally in Sydney, one of the 5,000 troops to secure the Apec heads of state led by US President Bush.

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WEATHER FORECAST

Partly cloudy with scattered rain showers and thunderstorms in the afternoon or evening. The low in Manila and suburbs may be warmer today with minimum temperature of 26°C.

Baguio	Partly cloudy	Iloilo	Partly cloudy
Dagupan	Partly cloudy	Cebu	Partly cloudy
Laoag	Partly cloudy	Tacloban	Partly cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly cloudy	Cotabato	Partly cloudy
Legazpi	Partly cloudy	Davao	Partly cloudy
Puerto Princesa	Partly cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly cloudy
Coron	Partly cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Partly cloudy

Strong peso shuts down 75 firms

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PESO'S SHARP RISE AGAINST THE UNITED States dollar has led to the shutdown of 75 mostly small-and-medium export enterprises, resulting in P1.5 billion in foreign exchange losses in the first half of the year, industry leaders claimed yesterday.

Sergio Ortiz-Luis Jr., president of the Philippine Exporters' Confederation, appealed to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to reconsider its foreign-exchange policy and slow down the peso's appreciation to prevent the export sector from losing its global competitiveness.

He said the estimated losses and company closures in the first semester were reported by leaders of the food, handicrafts, furniture and garments industries which is urging that the peso be made to remain within a range of 46.50 to the US dollar "within a fixed period of time in sensible export trading cycles."

"We cannot survive with the presently strong peso, especially one that rapidly appreciates or one that widely fluctuates," Ortiz-Luis said.

"The strong peso-equals-a-strong economy argument is only a myth. We only have to look at the export figures to know that while total export revenues are increasing, the last is BE percent of our exports are labor-intensive and has shut down entirely in the approaching peso," he said.

The peso closed at 46.64:45 yesterday, representing a gain of 1.6 centavos against the dust of the past.

Exporters from the electronics and garments industry, the country's top two export performers, have not been spared losses as well, although they impart the bulk of their raw materials, Ortiz-Luis said.

He attacked the policy of delinking the peso as "patently," arguing that China has adamantly ignored global criticism and deliberately kept the yuan undervalued to be able to make its exports more attractive to overseas buyers.

"We appreciate the wisdom of allowing market forces to determine the appropriate exchange rate levels. In our current experience, however, the fluctuations have been so wide and the signals by government influence a lot of speculation, such that portfolio managers and dollar traders already deviate the levels that result to their advantage," he said.

He said policy measures, short of direct intervention, are needed to prevent the speculators from taking advantage of the situation "at the expense of the bigger legitimate economic contributors."

BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. stressed, however, that the central bank was not intended for achieving peso.

"Our policy is a market-determined peso... Prior to this, there are continued depreciation, so how would you characterize that, a weak peso policy?" he said.

So we have done time and again, what the BSP does is to clarify and smoothen the movements," he said.

He said the proposal to maintain an exchange rate band leaving the exporters was too "risky."

"The primary observation is that it will tend to produce distortions in the system...and who will shoulder the cost?" he said.

Tetangco said the central bank would stick to its mandate of providing monetary and price stability, as a low-inflation rate regime would also benefit exporters.

"We're also doing moves in terms of liberalizing the foreign exchange system," he said.

Ortiz-Luis urged the government to undertake the following: review a dollar denominated loans that will be printed and remain there in the country; review foreign debts ahead of maturity to avoid demand for dollars; liberalize gold bullion trading and create a gold bullion certificate market to stabilize the exchange rate; and the Magna Carta for SMEs and the high-tech [area] which mandate lending to these priority sectors, by tightening the rules on alternative exemptions.

Gasoline, kerosene prices cut by 50¢

By Abigail L. Ho

OIL FIRMS HAVE REVISED gasoline and kerosene prices by 50 centavos a liter.

Petron Corp., Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp., Chevron Philippines Inc., Seaoil Philippines Inc. and Eastern Petroleum Corp. all adjusted their prices at 7 p.m. yesterday.

Phoenix Petroleum Philippines Inc. said the price adjustments on the same products at 12:01 a.m. today.

Seaoil president Gloria Ya said the price cut was due to the reduction in the prices of gasoline and kerosene in the world market, as the United States summer driving season continue to an end.

The regional benchmark Dubai crude fell to an August average of $67.58 a barrel from $69.49 a barrel in July.

World oil prices are also expected to go down some more with the coming in the country of Hurricane Felix, which apparently bypassed US refineries in the Gulf of Mexico.

Pricetags adjusted gasoline prices fell to between P50.87 and P51.77 a liter, as kerosene and gasoline for between P56.05 and P61.60 a liter, to P48.30 a liter.

Survey indicates people agree on Erap's guilt, says prosecutor

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE JOINT PROSECUTOR IN the P4 billion plunder case against deposed former President Joseph Estrada yesterday said that if majority of Filipinos favor an amnesty for the ousted president, it only suggests that they agree to his culpability.

Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio was commenting on the latest survey results of the Social Weather Stations that showed 77 percent of Iloilo Manila residents were willing to forgive the former president.

"For us here we read it, these people are in favor of pardoning him side because they agree that he has a liability," Villa Ignacio told the reporters.

Estrada's son Jose Jinggoy Marco Jose Florante "JV" Ejercito, however, said the results indicated that the majority believe in his father's innocence.

But the chief magistrate of the anti-graft court trying Estrada for plunder yesterday said the wide difference in the publics is generated by survey results sympathetic to the deposed leader.

Prejudicial publicity

"We are aware there might be prejudicial publicity. This is a very high profile case and it's very hard to control the media," Sandiganbayan Presiding Justice Secretario Desierto Castro said.

He Castro said the ban to limited from reading newspapers and has banned reading about the results of the recent SWS survey.

"Too many to say that I haven't read those news accounts, "De Castro said during a budget hearing yesterday.

He Castro denies the special division handling Estrada's case that includes associate justices Teodoro Peralta and Francisco Villaruz.

The Sandiganbayan is expected to render its decision on the case in the coming days.

Villa-Ignacio noted to get that the 90-day deadline in rendering a decision as prescribed by the Constitution falls on Sept. 13—"Erap's favorite number."

The number 13 seemed to have figured prominently in Estrada's life. He was the Philippines' 13th president and was impeached by the House of Representatives on Nov. 13, 2003. He was elected to challenge the validity of President Macapagal-Arroyo's administration by the Supreme Court in a 13-0 vote.

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RP now world's top labor exporter

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE PHILIPPINES IS NOW THE WORLD'S top exporter of labor, according to Labor Secretary Arturo Brion.

Brion made the statement yesterday before the House committee on appropriations as he justify his department's proposed P6.13 billion budget for 2008, an P808 million increase over their current P5.4 billion allocation.

"We are now the No. 1 labor-sending country simply because Filipinos are very desired everywhere," he told congressmen. "If we are not that productive, we will not be so desirable."

Brion was responding to the query of Surigao Rep. Salvador Escudero III on whether Filipino workers were productive.

The secretary said the demand for overseas Filipino workers was so high that there were now "more jobs than what we can produce."

He cited the case of Saudi Arabia, which had a demand for 5,000 nurses. He said the Philippines came up short by 2,000.

Over all, he said the country was sending one million Filipino workers every year—five percent more than the total of 7.7 million OFWs.

Under the budget proposal, the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda), stood to get the highest increase among all agencies attached to the DOLE.

The suggestion was to increase its current budget of P3.3 billion to P3.1 billion or a difference of 96.63 million.

The secretary assured congressmen that "our main policy is not marketing, but the protection" of OFWs.

Many of these OFWs were nurses seeking greener pastures outside of the Philippine health system.

From 2000 to 2003, the country lost 31,000 nurses to higher paying jobs abroad, according to the Health Alliance for Democracy, a nationwide network of doctors, nurses and other health professionals.

In 2005, the group noted that around 4,000 doctors were enrolled in nursing schools, ostensibly giving up what was considered a higher position in the general health system hierarchy.

Why the look on GMA's face?

By Christine O. Avendaño

THE PHOTOGRAPH ON THE FRONT page of the broadsheet the other day had President Arroyo displaying expressions that seemed to range from incredulity to shock, to her characteristic nervousness. The photo held up a compact disc (CD) and mentioned a few private words to her at the start of a meeting on national security the other day.

In what was that all about? Another scandal?

In a talk with reporters, Ermita shook his head and said it was only an old documentary on power politics in the United States that he was pitching to the President.

Ermita said he was surprised that the series of photographs capturing that short conversation he had with the President, later at the start of the National Security Council-Cabinet Group meeting in Malacañang last Tuesday was given so much meaning.

Ermita recalled to reporters what he told President Arroyo at that time: "Allan sinigo ito sa inyo ng isang tao, papadi-mento ko sa inyo ano 'yan. Sabi ano, if you have time, I will hand it to you."

He said that the CD was actually adapted from a book written by Kenneth Smith that he read during the time of President Corazon Aquino, entitled "The People and the Power Game."

The CD he presented to Ms Arroyo was titled "The Presidency, the Presidency and Congress in the United States."

Ermita said he found the book of limited to be "interesting" and with the CD, "it was very relevant to our political environment."

As to why the President made those strange expressions, Ermita could only say that the hovering photographer clicked her camera quickly.

Agri land deal with China still a plan, says DAR Usec

By TJ Burgonio

NOT A SQUARE FOOT OF PARIL land has been given to Chinese investors, according to an agrarian reform official in the face of criticism over a plan to convert farms into agribusiness-type plantations to be offered to foreign investors.

Gregorio Medestio, the agrarian reform Undersecretary for support services, said the plan to turn farms into plantations purchasing hybrid rice or corn, would not involve the leasing of lands.

What it would entail are joint venture agreements between the farmers and the investors, he said.

"There's a misconception that land utilization entails land lease. That's not the case here," Medestio said in a phone interview.

Leaders of peasant groups Ugnayan Magsasaka Tungo Sa Pagbabago and Task Force Mapalad pinned the Department of Agrarian Reform efforts last week, denouncing Medestio's suggestion for supposedly enlisting farmlands for agribusiness ventures under an agreement with China without consulting them.

"They thought the investors would take over their lands, which would be a violation of agrarian reform," Medestio said.

Medestio explained that some of the different modes of joint venture agreement, like contract-growing, production sharing, and build-operate-transfer, entail the leasing of farmlands.

He said no farmland has been identified for agribusiness endeavors in the country since the Philippine-China agricultural agreement was signed in January 2006.

"We're still in the planning stage. We have not received a request but if farmland is in the Chinese," he said, explaining that the memorandum of agreement was just a framework and there no specific agreements have been approved.

Hospitals call off 'holiday'

By Beverly T. Heinzlabd

AFTER A MEETING WITH HEALTH SECretary Francisco Duque, private hospitals yesterday announced they would hold off a threatened "hospital holiday" to demonstrate their objections to a new law that prohibits them from demanding payment who cannot pay their bills.

The Philippine Hospitals Association of the Philippines (PHAP) said it agreed to Duque's request to hold off the protest and give the health department a chance to address their concerns.

PHAP spokesman Dr. Rustico Jimenez said they still feel refusal is a viable solution to their problems with the new law.

"We are good citizens and we want to listen to all their [Department of Health] suggestions first. We want to give them some leeway just to see what they can do to address this," said Jimenez.

The new law (Republic Act No. 9439) provides that patients can be discharged upon signing of a promissory note covering their unpaid obligations.

Hospital owners said they want the government to tap the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) or the peak board (Poverty Development Assistance Fund) or seek congressmen, for the services of a guarantee fund in the event that promissory notes are not paid by patients.

The group was planning to hold the latest of its three-day each month until 2008, unless the government signals the law.

Jimenez said they hope the Health department can address their objections and find a way to compromise their pressures in the implementing rules and regulations of the new law. He said they did not promise to hold off for very long.

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Neri doesn't deny, confirm ₱200-M bribe offer

From page A1

project and Cyber Education Project (CEP) during the first quarter of 2007," said Nuti, now the head of the Commission on Higher Education.

But Neri said Ms Arroyo did not choose the ZTE to implement the NBN project. That power was exercised by Transportation and Communications Secretary Leandro Mendoza.

Neri said the Senate board only approved the "policy" of setting up broadband and cyber education projects.

Neri said if called to a congressional probe, he would be covered by Ms Arroyo's Executive Order No. 464 requiring executive department officials to get her permission before attending a legislative inquiry.

Neri told the Inquirer that he did see Chinese officials in a "meeting arranged by embassy officials." But he could not recall which it took place.

"At least once. I forgot when. I met with them, with Chinese officials."

"Ong na rin (Not now)," he said, when asked to disclose the issues discussed at the meeting.

"I clarified that this is the position of government at the time—no guarantee, no loan. It was shown in the Neda board minutes."

DOTC should answer

Asked why the deal with ZTE carried a sovereign guarantee for a loan instead of not paying even one cent through a build-operate-transfer scheme, he said: "It's the DOTC (Department of Transportation and Communications) that should answer."

He said an "Internet ambassador" and losing bidders also complained to him but he told them to "go back to the DOTC," which should "address your economic because are [their] board, don't choose suppliers."

Shortly after the Philippine government and the ZTE signed the deal, Un Ambassador Kim in Beijing had been quoted as applauding the "lack of transparency" in the deal.

The NBN contract was signed by Abalos and Yu Yong, ZTE vice president, on April 21 in ceremonies witnessed by Ms Arroyo. Shortly after, the Philippine

Ex-lawmaker claims he has the goods on Abalos

By Norman Bordadora

A FORMER CONGRESSMAN yesterday claimed he had enough evidence to file an outright impeachment complaint against Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. in connection with his alleged role in the $329-million national broadband network (NBN) deal.

Emilio "Eric" Ramos Bote filed the complaint with the Ombudsman after Abalos had tried to bribe other lobbyists to back out of the NBN project.

An unnamed businessman reportedly told the lawyer that he witnessed Abalos offer Amsterdam Holdings Inc. executive Jose de Venecia III $130 million for his firm to refrain from any further participation in the bidding for the project.

"My volunteer lawyer are preparing the impeachment complaint. ... They told me we have a case," Suplico told reporters at a news forum yesterday.

"There is culpable violation of the Constitution, bribery, graft and corruption and betrayal of public trust," he said of the grounds for impeaching Abalos.

Suplico said his evidence stemmed with distinct repeated admission that he had met with ZTE executives several times in his country and in Shenzhen, China.

He added that Abalos also admitted to being at the meetings among ZTE officials, Transportation and Communications Secretary Leandro Mendoza and Finance Secretary Margarito Teves.

"These are badges of participation. Here you were wondered what he did in China during the election period?" Suplico said.

Lozano complaint

Suplico distanced himself from the impeachment complaint that lawyer Glory Lozano would file against Abalos.

"This is separate from the complaint (of the) boss (Lozano). This is not a bus boss (a local jeepney's colloquial for labor) complaint," he added.

Minority Leader Rolando Zaragoza said the opposition in the House would closely look at the process of evidence that Suplico would present.

ZTE Corp. for the project.

"Definitely there is no order to discontinue [the project] just because of the uproar," Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said at his weekly news conference.

Leaders in both Houses of Congress have called for the cancellation of the NBN contract, claiming that it was so tainted with irregularities.

Malacañang is leaving it to the courts to decide whether there was any irregularity in the deal.

Suplico has asked the Supreme Court to nullify the NBN.

An opposition congressman has filed a case against Abalos and two assistant secretaries in the Office of the Ombudsman for allegedly entering into a grossly disadvantageous broadband deal with ZTE.

Speaker wants deal scrapped

Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. yesterday joined Senate President Manuel Villar Jr. in calling for the scrapping of the ZTE contract.

De Venecia said he earlier maintained his silence because of the involvement of his son and namesake Jose III in the controversy as one of the losing bidders for the NBN project.

"Whether [the project] is suspicious or not a red flag or not is my decision of abstention although in principle I am in favor that it be cancelled as pursued one by Sen. (Sr. President) Villar (is an earlier announcement)," De Venecia said.

Villar on Tuesday called for the cancellation of the broadband deal because it entailed a loan and because many of its features have yet to be explained by members of the administration (Inquirer.net, 9/5/2007).

He said the project needs to be rebid in a more competitive environment.

The NBN project seeks to establish a seamless connection of landline, cellular and Internet services among all government agencies and offices.

A group of lawmakers in the House is preparing to file an impeachment case against Abalos for allegedly brokering the deal on behalf of ZTE and trying to bribe an executive of a rival firm to drop its bid for the project.

Abalos has denied any wrongdoing.

Satisfied with Mendoza

Ermita said there was no reason for the Palace to investigate allegations of bribery because the matter was already with the high court and the Ombudsman.

"The President is satisfied that the primary secretary (Mendoza) has informed her that these things are to be inquired into by the Ombudsman and the Supreme Court and she doesn't have to believe all the allegations coming out in some media," the executive secretary said.

ZTE defends deal

GIVING ITS HEAR, ZTE POSED the question: "If our proposal is unfavorable to the Philippines, I wonder how you would describe our competitors?"

In a statement, Tousand Bin, ZTE global marketing director, posed the question amid allegations that the ZTE presented the Philippine government two opposing interest rates—5.08% and 8%.

"The problem is that people are 'Proposal One's' amount is $329 million' while 'Proposal Two's amount is $340 million,' and automatically assume that the second is less. But there is such a thing as choice presentation in bids: several rates, and the use of propaganda to condition the minds of the public," Bin said.

Under ZTE's proposal, the government will get a $329 million loan from the Chinese government at an interest rate of 3 percent per annum. The loan has a five-year grace period, and is payable in 25 years.

On the other hand, Amsterdam Holdings Inc. will take out a $340-million loan at commercial rates with around 18 years to pay.

MR will also require the Philippine government to issue a performance guaranteeing, Bote said.

MR's proposal would save one at least $60 million more expensive than ZTE's, based on interest payments, he said.

It is to note, the public discussion on the NBN deal are just being manipulated, according to Erastus.

"We must be able to pinpoint the responsibility if there are irregularities as alleged. So let the court determine that," he said.

Ms Arroyo, for who said, was "confident that the Cabinet officials handling this particular undertaking are up to the challenge of handling it."

"The President definitely has confidence in her Cabinet, especially Larry Mendoza," Ermita said.

In Senate Resolution No. 127, Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. urged the blue ribbon committee and the committee on trade and commerce to look into the overprice of the NBN deal and Abalos' "highly suspicious and likely irregular, if not unlawful" lobbying in behalf of ZTE before, during and after the election.

With reports from Norman Bordadora and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Tony Bergonia

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- Pres. Manuel Pangilinan (Meralco)
- Pres. Oscar Hilado (Petron Corporation)
- Pres. Andrew Gotianun (Filinvest Development Corporation)
- Pres. Jeffrey Hidalgo (Cutting Edge Asia Products Corporation)
- Pres. Ricardo Puno (Philippine Airlines)
- Jeffrey Hidalgo (Cutting Edge Asia Products Corporation)
- Ceo Babiera

The GoNegosyo Caravan is on the move and is off to key cities all over the Philippines. And its next stop is the thriving city of Manila.

GoNegosyo sa Manila September 7, 2007
Philam Center for the Arts, UN Avenue, Ermita, Manila

8:00-9:00 Registration • 9:00-9:10 National Anthem • 9:10-9:20 Invocation • 9:20-9:30 Welcome Remarks • 9:30-10:00 Awarding of Most Inspiring Entrepreneurs • 10:00-11:45 Keynote Forum with GoNegosyo Advocates and Most Inspiring Entrepreneurs from Manila • 11:45-12:30 Book Signing

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CA upholds murder raps vs Leviste

From page A1

Velasco that there was probable cause to charge Leviste with murder, and also ruled that there was basis for the reinvestigation to recall or withdraw Judge Elmo Alameda's admission of the amended information.

It likewise dismissed the former governor's claim that the reinvestigation was not requested in light of Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez's earlier statement that murder, and not homicide, should have been the charge filed.

Leviste is accused of shooting dead his longtime aide Rafael de los Alas on Jan. 12, 2007, in his office in the LPL Tower in Makati.

He was initially charged with homicide but Alameda granted the request of the De los Alas family for a reinvestigation, which was conducted by Velasco.

Leviste has since been assigned for murder but was later released on bail.

The protests scheduled on Sept. 10

Bail unaffected

Velasco said in a phone interview that with the appellate court's decision, Leviste's prosecution for murder would continue.

He said the decision would not affect the grant of bail to Leviste because the court had ruled only on the issue of the reinvestigation of the case and the subsequent finding of probable cause for murder.

"The bail matter is at the discretion of the hearing court. Our motion for reconsideration, [questioning the grant of bail] was already denied," Velasco said.

In another phone interview, Leviste lawyer Manuel Dayrit expressed disappointment with the court's decision but said "this does not change the picture."

"We're disappointed but this does not affect our case in any way. Whether the charge is murder or homicide does not matter because we've always treated the case as murder," he said.

Dayrit said he did not know whether the prosecution submitted to present evidence other than what was presented during the bail hearing.

"I doubt if they have more evidence. At the bail hearing, they failed to present strong evidence that the case was murder, and not homicide," he said.

Probable cause, not guilt

The appellate court said there was no reason to reverse Velasco's finding, which Leviste had described as baseless.

It pointed out that a reinvestigation was not a trial of the case on the merits and was only intended to determine probable cause, and not the guilt of the accused.

"In this case, however, the conclusion dated Feb. 2, 2007, issued by Velasco after the reinvestigation appears to have been duly supported by probable cause," it said.

It added that the three-day duration of the reinvestigation and the subsequent issuance of an arrest warrant and the setting of Leviste's arraignment were sufficient reasons to reverse the findings.

The court also said Gonzalez's statement that Leviste should have been charged with murder—made when the justice secretary berated the acting city prosecutor of Makati...did not affect the reaffirmation of the reinvestigation.

It said that Gonzalez's utterances did not show a prejudgment of the case, and that it was within his power to control and supervise prosecutors.

"While good sense dictates that [Secretary Gonzalez] should have been more circumspect in giving statements before the media with respect to the subject reinvestigation, his statements alone are not indicative of a prejudgment, or a determination to file the amended information for murder even in the absence of probable cause," it said.

No abuse of discretion

There was no evidence either that Alameda had abused his discretion in allowing the reinvestigation, the appellate court said.

It found no merit in Leviste's argument that it was only he who could seek a preliminary investigation, saying the prosecution could call for a reinvestigation of a case that had been filed in court. In this case, Velasco had agreed to the motion for reinvestigation.

"Hence, private complainants, with the conformity of respondent prosecutor, are legally authorized to move for the reinvestigation of the evidence and for reconsideration of petitioner's case, should they choose to avail themselves of the said remedy, instead of appealing to the Secretary of Justice," it said.

The court also said Alameda did not have to conclude a hearing before issuing an arrest warrant. It said the judge's determination of probable cause for the issuance of a warrant was based not only on the prosecution's resolution but also on other documentary evidence.

Not new information

The court further said the amended information for murder could still be submitted.

"An amended information is not a new information because it does not charge another offense different or distinct from that charged in the original one ... It is only after petitioner's arraignment that its substantial amendment of the information may be prevented," it said. With a report from DJ Yap

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SEPTEMBER 9 is GRANDPARENTS' DAY

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DEPARTMENT STORE

Lomibao named to Berroya's job at LTO

From page A1

Antero Lomibao.

Mr Arroyo last week named Dermodaya an officer in charge of the DOJ in a statement issued by his spokesman Ignacio Bunye.

Gonzalez took a marked leave.

Compared to a "caretaker role" as officer in charge at the DOJ, which is only transitional, an acting justice secretary can exercise all the powers and prerogatives of the office.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita told reporters Mr. Arroyo made the decision "because there are questions (about a caretaker role), considering so many important cases" were pending with the DOJ.

As officer in charge, Dermodaya cannot sign appointments or make decisions, "so she should be given powers and authority to sign (on) pursuant" those, Ermita said, Ermita.

LOMIBAO: Made way for JDV

BARAOS: DOTC boss

DEVANADERA: Acting DOTC chief

Mr Arroyo last previously assigned National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales to temporarily oversee the political affairs of her office Secretary Gabriel Claudio resigned for health reasons.

Gonzales was deemed to overcommit on the time lodged in the Netherlands against Communist Party of the Philippines founder Jose Ma. Sison, and on possible peace deals with rebel rebels.

Mr. Arroyo said that Puno, who is also presidential assistant of late Rebolledo ng Malayang Pilipino (Ramp) party, would serve "indefinitely" in the dual role of head of the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the political affairs office.

Ermita said he understood that Puno would be officer in charge at the office vacated by Claudio.

A stalwart of the ruling party Lakas-CMD, Claudio underwent delicate spinal surgery on Aug. 8. He resigned from the Cabinet on Aug. 24.

Other members of Ms. Arroyo's official family who were reshuffled recently were Interior and Presidential Secretary Ronaldo Puno, who was returned to his old post at the Department of Public Works and Highways.

For judicial affairs with the rank of undersecretary.

Ms. Berroya is scheduled to leave for Australia today to attend a conference of the Asia-Pacific Economic (Apec) forum.

On Monday, Ms Arroyo designated Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno as presidential adviser on political affairs, in a concurrent capacity.

Musical chairs

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IMPORTANT

To the Devotees of the SACRED HEART OF JESUS: Jesus was born on December 25, 2007 to the FIRST FRIDAY of the month. Novenas and Masses to the SACRED HEART OF JESUS and to ST. ANTHONY are given away FREE for Chapels, Hospitals, Schools, etc. Please get them from JAVIERS at the Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City, 8813 or at Bukidnon Centro Bldg. 176 San Lorenzo St. Legaspi Village Makati City, MM

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, September 6, 2007
22nd Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Col 1:9-14
Gospel: Luke 5:1-11

One day, as Jesus stood by the Lake of Gennesaret, with a crowd gathered around him listening to the word of God, he caught sight of two boats low at the water's edge by the lakeside where fishermen were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked Simon to pull out a little from the shore. Then he sat and continued to teach the crowd.

When he had finished speaking he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch." Simon replied, "Master we worked hard all night and caught nothing, but if you say so, I will lower the net." This they did and caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. They signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. They came and filled both boats so much so the point of sinking.

Upon seeing this, Simon Peter fell at Jesus' knees, crying, "Leave me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" For he and his companions were amazed at the catch they had made and so were Simon's partners, James and John, Zebedee's sons.

Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid. For now on people from now on." So they brought their boats to land and followed him, leaving everything.

Commentary:

We are a missionary Church of God in every sense. We are because of our union with God of Jesus, and Jesus ships are developing and enjoying fidelity to the teaching that have been given. Have greater joy in prayer for [illegible] and wisdom [illegible] of the spirit and [illegible] so may live a life worthy of our baptismal calling.

Jesus preaches like Word and life and does not [illegible] and commands them to cast out into the deep—they obey and catch so many fish they almost sink the boats. Peter gets a sense of who Christ is—how much he and others need forgiveness. We must always go back to this that we are loved by God and like the disciples we are God, and strong. So we should [illegible] and follow Jesus into the depths of God. Time for nothing a end!

'Salamat sa Desisyon ng Korte Suprema 13-0'

'Mas buo ang loob ng kabataan ng Smokey Mountain na ipaglaban ang kinabukasan'

"Maganda-ngayon nang tulong para sa amin. Pero sana'y mas marami sa amin ang matuto na kami lahagi ang tulong sa sarili namin. Pagdagdagan ang edukasyon—pag may education, may unity sa aming lugar. Pag may unity, may progress ang community.

(I hope that help continues to flow in and that more of our youth realize that it is through their own efforts that their lives would improve)," states Shirley Colomer, 18. She adds she will continue to be guided by the discipline developed in her by the late National Artist for Dance Ramon Obusan who served as community volunteer and artist trainer for the dance group Mga Anak ni Inang Daigdig. (www.pwsmokey-mt.org)

Where escape is a natural recourse, the young leaders of Smokey Mountain opt to remain and work to see more improvements in their community.

Many of them have seen many key cities of the world. They have performed as a cultural dance group to raise funds for scholarships. Asked about their dreams, they hardly speak of leaving the country for better lives. They want to stay and see more progress at Smokey Mountain.

They want their community to be recognized as a Philippine showcase of transformation – from a community of dwellers who made a living out of a huge garbage dumpsite to one of dignified living, through self-help and perseverance. They want to be known for caring for people and the environment.

They see the recent **Supreme Court** decision, which upheld the validity of the **Smokey Mountain Reclamation and Development Project** that provided them permanent homes, as a propeller of dreams, a "boost" for their efforts.

"Para sa akin, bonus na ang Supreme Court decision. Alalahin na naman ang unang na dalagan ng magkaroon ng tuluyang bahay, ng malinis na paligid (I regard the SC decision as a bonus. We have long realized the benefits of having our own homes and clean surroundings)," states Andrew Macalalad, 28, Parish Youth Coordinator.

It has been nine years, starting from early 1998, since permanent homes in 21 medium-rise residential buildings were turned over to 2,520 families who were beneficiaries of the project undertaken by the **National Housing Authority** and **R-II Builders Inc.**

Andrew, who brought the Smokey Mountain stench with him to grade school, has been to Australia, US, Hong Kong and Japan with the cultural dance group and was 2006 representative to the APEC Youth Summit in Vietnam. As one of the first church scholars, he graduated with a degree in business administration from the Philippine Maritime Institute. But he is not about to let go of community work. He still wants to see more youth volunteers give of their own selves for their community.

SC upholds detention of Army major in Feb '06 coup try

ARMY MAJ. JASON AQUINO will remain in detention after the Supreme Court dismissed the habeas corpus petition of his wife Maria Ri and ruled that his detention by the military was valid.

The high court upheld a Court of Appeals decision dismissing Maria Ri's petition for the release of her husband, who is among several officers charged with rebellion in the February 2006 coup attempt.

Aquino is charged with attempting to begin a mutiny in violation of Article 67, and with conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman in violation of article 96 of the Articles of War.

According to the high court, Aquino's detention was proper as he is processed by military law, and the Articles of War allow military officials to detain their personnel.

In its Aug. 31 decision released yesterday the high court said Article 70 of the Articles of War empowers the commanding officer to place "noncommissioned officers and soldiers under restraint, any person subject to military law charged with a crime or with a serious offense under the Articles of War."

"As a general rule, the writ of habeas corpus will not issue where the person alleged to be restrained of his liberty is in the custody of an officer under a process issued by the court which has jurisdiction to do so," it said.

The high court also rejected Maria Ri's argument that Aquino was not entitled to his order of quarters as required by the Article 70 of the Articles of War, but was instead placed in military confinement in a maximum-security detention cell. She also said she was harassed from visiting her husband, and described his treatment as cruel and inhuman. Lira B. Salamero

Port of Manila posts record

THE PORT OF Manila has posted a record collection of P7.27 billion in August, the second consecutive month that District Collector Horacio Ramos has exceeded his target.

Ramos said the August collection was 13 percent—about P793 million—more than the P6.47 billion he was supposed to collect for the month.

"We will continue to plug all revenue leaks and increase the port's collection," he said in a press statement.

Commissioner Napoleon Morales told reporters on Monday that the Bureau of Customs, the government's revenue-tapped tax collector, has its target of P205.8 billion in the port.

The Bureau of Internal Revenue, which revenue for merchants of the government's tax take, also likely to beat its collection goal of P62 billion for August based on initial data.

The performance of the two agencies in the previous two months indicates that state revenues are back on track after a weak first half.

The government exceeded its first-half budget deficit target by about a third after a ticket to tackle widespread evasion. It is relying on improved collections and asset sales to meet its full-year shortfall goal of P65 billion.

With a report by Reuters

PHILIPPINE DA

GMA set to have 20-minute meeting with Bush tomorrow

From page 1

meeting, foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo will have a meeting with US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

Foreign Undersecretary Rafael Seguis said the agenda for the Bush-Arroyo meeting would be up to the two leaders.

"Leaders, when they meet, there is no agenda. You could possibly pass the issues," Seguis said in a media briefing. But he said the issues of terrorism and transparency were likely to crop up.

Business meetings

On Saturday Ms Arroyo will discuss with Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Badawi the resumption of the government's peace talks with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, which Kuala Lumpur hosts.

Ms Arroyo will also meet with the Filipino community and CEOs of leading American companies.

Tomorrow Ms Arroyo will meet Dr. Jose Ibala, group chair of SUMITOMO CAPITAL and co-leader of the Apec Group. Chip Goodyear, CEO of BHP Billiton, and Ambassador Gabali, a Chilean mining executive.

She will have a working dinner with the president and CEO of the US Chamber of Commerce and the US-Apec Business Council.

Spreading the good news

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye told reporters in Manila that Ms Arroyo was looking forward to talk with Apec leaders "to have to promote economic stability, secure peace and security, expand prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region while dealing with the global challenge of climate change."

Bunye said Ms Arroyo would discuss the "good news" about the country's economy and its "unwavering fight against terror" during the Apec summit.

"The President will be an active participant in discussions especially on climate change, given its impact on our country's weather patterns and efforts on the agricultural sector," he said.

In her talks with Bush, Ms Arroyo is likely to discuss the country's new multilateral ties, according to Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita. He said that the United States was actively supporting the Philippines' efforts to counter terrorism.

Joint PR Show

Ermita also said the two leaders were likely to talk about US support for the Philippine military, including provision of equipment and training.

Asked whether the issue of one of communist leaders Jose Ma. Sison in the Netherlands would be raised, Ermita said it was possible, considering that US Ambassador Kristie Kenney was quoted recently as saying that the United States would help out if asked by the Netherlands in its case against Sison.

At the end of their two-day retreat, participants will meet the Apec Economic Leaders Declaration which will contain the strategic direction for Apec next year.

Apec groups Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, China, Indonesia, Hong Kong China, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Peru, the Philippines, the Russian Federation, Singapore, Chinese Taipei, Thailand, United States and Vietnam. With a report from Cherry Ray in Amsterdam

Asia-Pacific nations to strengthen food, product safety standards

SEOUL (AGENCIES) - Asia-Pacific nations are working to map out a more cohesive approach to strengthening the region's food and product safety standards in response to the 21-member bloc's upward climb toward greater economic integration.

The measures to ensure a smoother circulation of goods in both the business prepared for the meeting of trade and foreign ministers from the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) forum ahead of their leaders' summit at the weekend.

"We agreed on the need to develop a more robust approach to strengthening food and consumer product safety standards and practices in the region, using scientific risk-based approaches, and without necessarily compromising trade," the draft declaration says.

The statement called for greater coordination on food safety procedures.

"We obviously take very seriously this whole issue of food safety," Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer told reporters. "There needs to be greater confidence in standards.

"I think there's a consensus about that."

Apec member China has been battling a torrent of bootleg and unsafe goods that have shaken the confidence of international markets in the "made in China" label on products ranging from toothpaste and toys to food and fans.

Toymaker Mattel Inc. on Tuesday announced a third recall of Chinese-made toys, saying it would take back more than 800,000 units globally with "unreasonable" levels of lead. (Dow Jones Newswires, Page A10)

The food and product safety measures is among a number of initiatives Apec is undertaking to enhance security in the region, including protocols for secure ports, cargo and containerized products, passengers and the consignments of suspect travelers. Reuters

Protesters Down Under to show Bush bottom line

From page 1

nomic Cooperation (Apec) summit.

Police have said they expect violent during a series of protests against the Apec summit which will gather together 21 leaders from around the world.

"There's this hysteria about the protests," Saunders said yesterday.

'Bores not bombs'

"All I hoped to make the point. But protests don't have to be three months long, serious things."

The "Bores Not Bombs" group will particularly target Bush, whose unpopular war in Iraq has been strongly backed by Australian Prime Minister John Howard.

The cost to the world leaders, including Bush's five-day stay at a luxurious US$1,000 per night harbourside hotel, have resulted in road blocks, changes to public transport, and other disruptions in Australia's biggest city.

The protests will take place in Sydney's Hyde Park, close to where the leaders will be meeting.

'21 Guns Salute'

In a leaflet to possible supporters, the group calls for 4,000 cheerleaders, 2,000 people—to "tell Bush what we really think about his visit."

Protesters could numbers for the protest were not yet certain but he had a core group to perform a "21 Guns Salute" to represent each of the countries in the grouping.

Bush apologizes

"I think there's remains to be hundreds of people," said Saunders, who previously appeared on television where he and another man painted "No War" on the Sydney Opera House in huge, bright and lemon tar-like are of the 50 members of Iraq in 2003.

The group said it needed 4,000 planks to break the gates, and would need 8 more. "But as one Apec protester can tell us, yes," it said.

Bush himself avoided answering about any of the protests, but he apologized for the right security not that has needed reality.

"No the extent that I've caused that, I apologize," Bush said at the press conference with Howard yesterday. "I apologize to the Australian people if I've caused that."

'What a pain'

His doubled words came after an Australian reporter welcomed him to Sydney and was promised that "it doesn't always look like this, with steel fences and concrete barricades, and armed guards on the streets."

"I hope you feel safe," Bush broke in. "But feel insecure, inconvenienced, obviously."

Amid the largest security operations in Australian history, Bush said that the best thing he wanted was to have his fences conclude "what a pain it is to have the American president" as a result.

Feeling guilty

"Unfortunately, however, this is what the united has the right was necessary to protect people. And you live in a free society. People feel like they want to protest—fine, they can. And unfortunately, evidently, some people also want to try to be violent in their protests," he added.

When the reporter said he was not blaming Bush personally in the US leader replied: "I guess I must be feeling guilty, you know what I'm saying?"—drawing laughter from the audience.

Around 3,000 police, backed by 1,500 counter-terrorism and special forces soldiers, are enforcing a city centre exclusion zone bordered by a forbidding fence in a security crackdown criticized as excessive by civil libertarians.

The 2.8-metre high steel and concrete wall stretches some 5.5 kilometres through the city and around seven hectares of downtown park to the Sydney Opera House. AFP

Joma not covered by amnesty, says Esperon

From page A1

ernor," Esperon said.

Asked if Sison's alleged crimes in the Philippines would be covered, Esperon quipped: "I think there's something for the legal minds to study. Probably yes, but he is now facing charges in Netherlands. So our amnesty will not cover any form of other cases."

US assistance

Sison, 68, founder of the Communist Party of the Philippines, was arrested by Dutch police on Aug. 28 and ordered detained by a judge in The Hague.

A statement by Wiki de Bruin, spokesperson of the Dutch national prosecutor's office, said Sison was suspected of giving orders from the Netherlands to counter-insurgency commander Jaime Ilagan Bonoan and others in Tarlac.

The CPP and its armed wing, the New People's Army, have been listed as terrorist organizations both by the European Union and the United States.

US Ambassador to the Philippines Kristie Kenney has said that Washington is willing to help the Dutch government prosecute Sison if the latter would visit US first.

AFP backs amnesty

As for Malacañang exceptions, Esperon said he expected more legal questions to crop up on the qualifications of applicants for amnesty once the proclamation was released and submitted to Congress for concurrence.

Esperon said the AFP fully supported the amnesty proclamation as long as the rebels would return to the mainstream. He said the AFP was part of the discussions when the amnesty proposal was being formulated.

Legal loopholes

"It's OK with us if they come to the mainstream, except of course for certain crimes like rape, and if there are no agreements with political beliefs. Otherwise, we will go for trial," he stressed.

Former President Fidel V. Ramos, who also mediated the Malaysian affair, said he, too, was for giving amnesty to rebels except for crimes committed not in furtherance of political beliefs.

Ramos urged Malacañang to carefully study the parameters of the amnesty program to avoid legal loopholes.

The National Security Council the other day approved the grant of amnesty to communist rebels willing to lay down their arms, in a move it hoped would hasten the conclusion of the stalled peace negotiations with the communist National Democratic Front.

The amnesty could also cover party-list representatives charged with rebellion for their alleged involvement in a conspiracy to overthrow the government in February 2006. Presidential Peace Adviser Jesus Dureza and National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales said.

Administration ploy

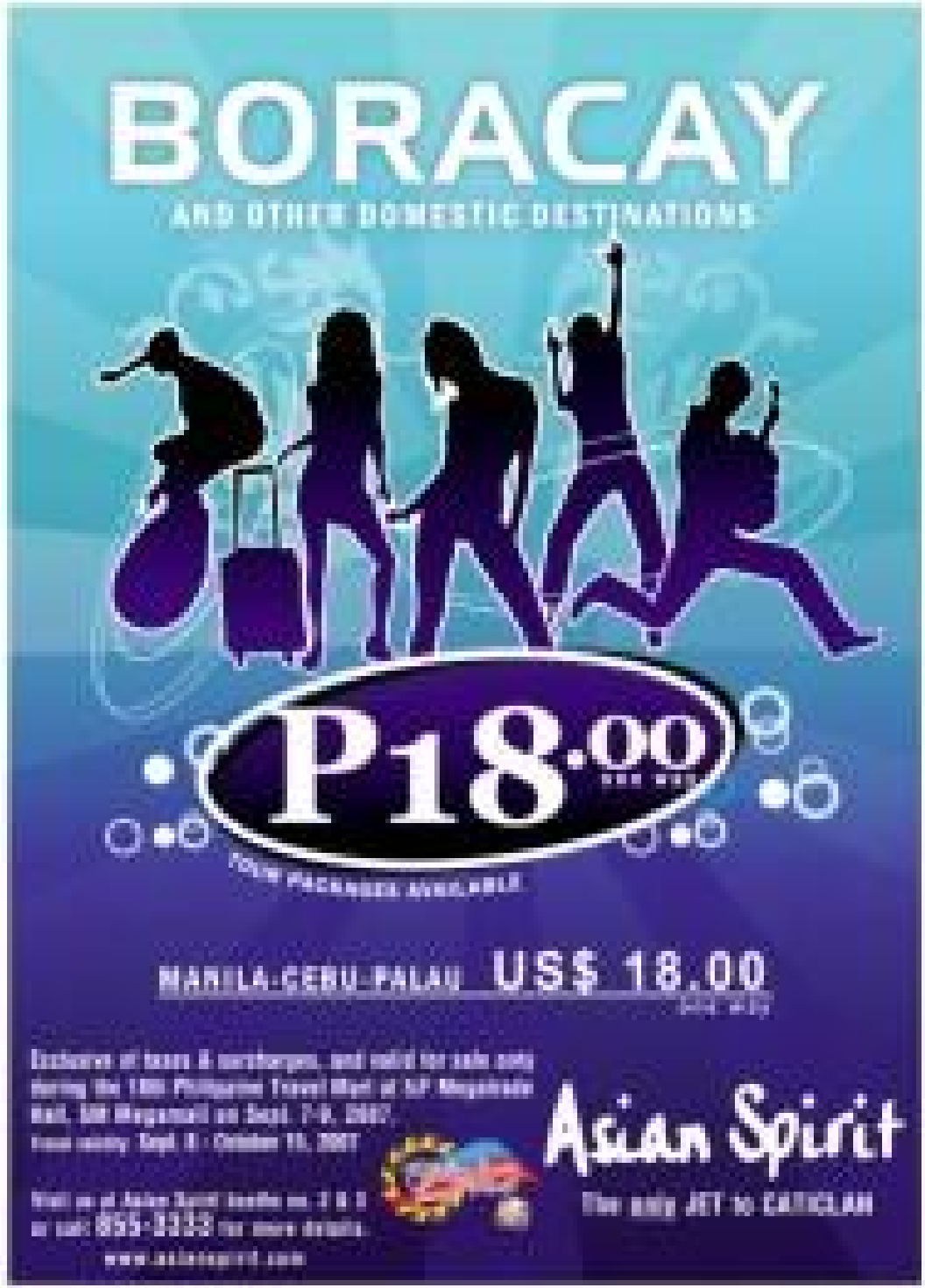
Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo denounced the amnesty offer as "totally unacceptable." Ocampo said the move was "in connivance with the fast-raising specter of Malacañang against progressives."

Ocampo reminded Gonzales and Bunoza that the Makati Regional Trial Court had already dismissed the "Peace Advocates" rebellion cases against him and 30 other personalities.

"The trumped-up rebellion case against us has long been dismissed by the Supreme Court," said Gabriela Rep. Liza Maza.

Ocampo said amnesty "is a calculated counter-insurgency ploy in light of the government's declared goal to finish (off) by 2010 the (all) insurgency (by) strategically defeating the New People's Army."

"(But) amnesty is no meaningful, (it) must form part of a comprehensive peace agreement and not a unilateral act of government in an ongoing armed conflict," he said. With a report from Christine V. Esguerra



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OPINION

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Cop-out

THE POLICE HAVE CHANGED TACK ON THE JUBAIS Burgos mystery, and unfortunately for the missing activist and all those who hope to see his abductors brought to justice, the police have moved in the direction first tracked by the military. Now the police see communist rebels, and only communist rebels, as responsible for the crime.

EDITORIAL

We have serious reservations about the new witnesses presented by the Armed Forces of the Philippines, however. Many of these concern the implausibility of the military's claims, but the most significant doubts arise from what went before these witnesses were presented.

Military sources that journalists have relied on for years have swum that a unit of either the Intelligence Service of the AFP or of the 56th Infantry Battalion based in Bulacan were involved in the abduction. A state prosecutor has asserted that six soldiers were behind the disappearance, a claim that earned him the justice secretary's displeasure. And ever since Burgos was forcibly seized in a mall last April, the leadership of the AFP has acted in a less-than-forthright, suspicion-inducing manner: stonewalling, finding excuses not to appear before the courts, refusing to turn over the results of internal investigations.

For these and other reasons, we find the military's most recent version of events suspect. Unfortunately, the police now share that interpretation. And they have brought to it their own worst practices.

Let us, using the most recent statements of Senior Supt. Joel Coronel of the Criminal Investigation Detection Group, consider only two of these fatal flaws.

First, an almost total dependence on eyewitness testimony.

Coronel is well within his rights to judge the testimony of Evangelio Lipio, a member of the New People's Army, as providing the most "logical and coherent" picture of the Burgos abduction. That is his holdout. But his complete reliance on Lipio's belated testimony illustrates the weakness of trusting if not most, of the cases our police officers investigate.

They are, most of them, based on the say-so of someone or other. For that very reason, many of them do not prosper in court—the testimonies are eminently recantable.

To be sure, in the Burgos disappearance, Coronel speaks of a pattern he sees in the testimony of other witnesses. "[Lipio's] statements are consistent with what other witnesses have told us before."

But his case, as he makes it, depends entirely on these witnesses. He excludes such evidence as the license plates of the Toyota Revo used in abducting Burgos from the mall, which have been traced back to the impounding area inside the headquarters of the 56 IB in Norzagaray, Bulacan. (Why? They, too, were pointed out by eyewitnesses.)

This brings us to the second worst practice. Coronel's statements rejects any, yet again, that the police somehow have the habit of disregarding the evidence that is right before their eyes.

Coronel, for example, said he found the alleged connection between the controversial license plates and military involvement in the Burgos abduction "really puzzling."

Now that's a puzzlement. By any reasonable standard, the fact—and it's a fact—that the plates on an abductor's vehicle were traced back to a battalion HQ should be considered reason that a prima facie case does exist to investigate the possible involvement of battalion officers or men in the abduction.

Unfortunately, it would take enormous self-confidence and political will on the part of the police to say that. Thus, the cop-out: Police officers who now choose to give eyewitness only to those witnesses whose testimony favors the military.

Checkmate?

THE LATEST INTELLIGENCE REPORT ABOUT IRAQ—A CONfidential, mid-level assessment—shows that the United States has almost no moves left to make in Iraq.

If the secret "surge" of additional combat brigades is showing signs of success, it's yet another indictment of the decision to invade Iraq without enough troops to effectively control the country.

FOREIGN COMMENT

The murky glimmer of good news from the fighting is hardly a promise of success. America cannot succeed militarily in Iraq; it can only give Iraqis enough breathing room to succeed themselves. Security may buy time, but the ultimate solution must be political.

—The New Yorker (Thursday, Washington)

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Cry of the widows

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

THE FLIGHT, THERE ARE ONLY TWO COMmuters left," editor Dainoha Mercedes said over dinner in Lahaina. "Both are Filipinos." Since then, the National Democratic Front's (NDF) Jaramillo has become a naturalized Dutch citizen. Then, in negotiating walkie-lawmen peace ceremonies and the NDF she later columnists Blanche formerly would grouse, "Who is this joker identifying lovin' international affairs?"

By Summer's hard season, than left Commission Jury of the Philippines (CHP) founder was Ms. Stein, 68. "If you're a 'true believer,' live in North Korea," columnist Alejandro Roces. Summits, drugs and others unrolled Since. Yet fight with the New People's Army."

Instead, Stein sought haven in the Netherlands in 1987. He chose well. The Netherlands' traditions of democratic space are sturdy.

The Dutch government backed the deportation of Stein to counter his prosecution from persecution. It shelters some insurgency between the NDF and the Philippine government—in The Hague in June 1996, in Brunswick in March 1997. Stein pocketed initial benefit checks...stopped only after the European Union tagged the NDF and the CPP-as terrorist organizations.

Stein explained this libertarian ethos years to order a "people's war" born by a timid and fan, dispatched from the comfort of his Utrecht flat. "The Burgos liberals of the time—and signing commissioners saga their credibility" the Dutch have never noted. "Disarray grows; even Mao's dictum: 'Revolutions are not a garden party'...on to Israel."

Dutch police arrested Stein last August. The Philippine government's office saved their Stein] ordered "the number (of) former political prisoners in the Philippines...Romulo Kintanar in 2002 and Antero Tolentino in 2004." Both Dinks away from Stein's group in the early 1990s. KBL-An news posted down dozen. "It is by-ugly image was the spectacle of party-list representatives toasting the assassination of a former comrade, who was Kintanar," snapped the latter's Comrade-in-Quino.

"A few act of death sentences were publicly administered," after the party splintered. Three Boomers of Rogue Solidarity Gani Nemesio serious. Aside from Kintanar and Tolentz, those killed included Bonjo de Vera and Rupo Luguan. "Stein explained it was necessary to 'kill the children to save the mother,'" the study says. Thus, former Mabuhayan's murder in April 1988 "was a warning to fully liberated intellectuals."

Gilligan mondays the clients beyond the Left, Romero notes. It spawned secularism "suspensive," including those sanction "patriots to campaign." The CPP-NPP-NDF "Ten Line—A Preliminary Report" notes that in February 2006, the party appointed individuals and organizations as "counter-revolutionary"—and therefore targets for murder. Among those named were Rep. Eva Kiadis, Walden Bello of the University of the Philippines, Satur Ocampo, Liza Maza, Crispin Beltran, Joel Rocamora and Manuel Quezon-Belle of Mahagan and Joel Rocamora.

"Intimidation is turned against the whole independent left to impose monopoly of power," the study adds. "An overall policy of threats, death sentences and killings (were) directed at the terrorized mass, something no other group does."

Gary Olivar's veteran; we're told, can cure the stalled peace talks. Tell that to the judge. An independent tribunal of a sovereign country will judge the evidence. Not when a handful of secret government chiefs.

The Philippines stretches the peace talks on to Commissions. Nothing else impairs national sovereignty is acceptable. But the NDF rejects the reach of the Commission. In every turn, it makes clear its new "scope of backgrounds," i.e., Stein's long squat among enemies. But not even Nicole Jurua recognizes the NDF as such. Neither do the other 189 United Nations member nations.

Whether the peace talks can be rescued is no longer the issue. Rather, are they actually dead? After all, the other party slaughters chickens to speak the hostess.

* * *

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Walls

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

SAITAMA LEGEL...IN THE INTERMISSION HAD Ryad Bagambayan Light and Sound Museum. There's at Bataan's San Diego, a few blocks away from San Agustin Church. I was there with some friends last week with a tour guide named Richard Gordon (this was his baby when he was tourism secretary) and I must confess I was pleasantly surprised, and impressed, by what I saw. It's a lot of sound and fury signifying ... everything.

Everything for us, Filipinos, who know now as nothing about our past. The year is not unlike the historical-illustrated books if you've seen them carried in almost obligatory if you're studying Jolly in Antonio. Though it's now toned down, of course. And if you can live a non of this. Ignorant stories, you can mean certainly do a text of Philippine history. I can vouch at least for Light and Sound's entertainment value. It's guaranteed to not bore you the way history necessary and high school history class did, with its emphasis on names and dates. The only names you have to remember are those of your dates to the text. We could do worse considering some names—the text costs only P100 and not seem ridiculous considering what's may to make it less the hard-up academe—searching a bad movie with your bff and eating popcorn.

I am tempted to say that should be made required viewing for politicians, but we can always begin with Gloi's fellows in the Senate and Arroyo's cronies in the Batasan. Everything in the that if you give our senators and congressmen a half-sheet-of-paper quiz on history, most of them will flunk. But, I'm willing to bet that if you ask them to sing "Lupang Hinirang," most of them will finish.

Who knows? Maybe grounding them in the past will give them a better sense of the country's problems and lesser cure for its future. I can vouch as well for the fact that what the Light and Sound tour looks in the kind of spectral of facts the Unionized and Nationalist years furnish a framework for the special effect it has on the faces and mind.

The tour starts with our pre-Hispanic past and ends with Emilio Aguinaldo waving the flag in Kawit. It runs about 45 minutes (I forgot to look at my watch, which should say something about how engrossing it can be), a journey in time (and space) ranging from tribal communities in the small villages that dotted the islands engaged in plundering and small-scale trading with neighboring China to the coming of the Spaniards and the initial resistance to them; to the conquest of the islands by Legazpi and the subjugation of the natives; to the enlightening years brought by Spanish rule with the building of fortresses, to grinding oppression and the rebellions it spawned; to the rise of the ilustrados and their greater representation, José Rizal, to the birth of the Katipunan, to Rizal's trial and execution; to mounting misery from defeat, a nation is born from the ashes of a martyr.

It's a splendid and gripping story, told, if not in a rapid (for MTV pace), at least in a wholly exciting style to hold its participant should find "bored." I liked three things about it:

First is that it tells our story from our point of view. This version of it shows more and for more of the time than any Philippine history begins with Magellan's discovery of Mactan are over. We were needed discovering, we were always here, including our own business, living peaceably with others and so freely and happily as it is possible to be with a people governing. Linda Arasso was one of those who did much to show that we were by no means a primitive people—that the Spaniards came—we had a rudimentary form of written language, a battle was needed to subdue us, and a long, living response to it. Of course, historians objected to his use of "Philippine prehistory" to depict that period, which bolstered the view that Philippine history really began with the Spaniards. But now, as the Light and Sound presentation shows, that period of that...

Second is to imagine into the nightmare of internecine, inconsistency, of course, means "Stalked City," a thing that only discovered its name. It was built on the backs of the conquered, and it was built on the backs of the conquerors. It was built on the backs of the conquered and spiritual establishment of Spanish rule. The segments about Insurrection especially says it, noting that we really did not just rise in spurs, then rose in the jacket's mind, making him believe that we were America's self-government while he is still on the "subjects his subjection and their faithfulness. Unfortunately that theme is not intuitively pursued or "concentrated" through out the narrative. Well, it is never too late to

Time to pursue peace at local level

A RECENT REPORT QUOTES NEW ARMY CHIEF Lt. Gen. Alexander Yano as saying that communist rebels have been allowed to use their shrinking steel camps due to demobilization over the extension across of their leader, Jose Ma. Sison, in the Netherlands. Yano said the military has deployed additional troops to Compostela Valley and Mindanao, which could infiltrate rebels. Counter-rebels are trying to find a way out of the nationwide crisis.

It is difficult to believe that, for over 20 years, Jesus has been allowed to live freely in Utrecht. In Utrecht, he has received visits from media and from his brother, who was a revolutionary war by long-distance. How he has been able to live there for allegedly ordering the executions was nothing extraordinary.

* * *

This may be the right time to pursue peace with the demoralized rebels. In fact, even before the arrest of Sison, a few months ago some of the leaders of the CPP-NPA-NDF in Mindanao told me they were seriously planning to pursue peace in their own turf. They knew the rebels were suffering in their areas and after seeing the peace process in Aceh, a handful of the international government level, they want to broker a dialogue between local government officials and rebel chieftains in the hope of forging an agreement at such regional level.

It is a wonderful idea. For much Filipino blood has been needlessly shed on both sides of the ideological line. Pursuing peace even at the local level has a far better chance than at the national level, where the entrenched bigwigs usually do other swelling for international consumption.

* * *

It long has after a decade and a half of seeking to upgrade the quality of weapons and close a deal by the Philippine government to international standards, the Department of Foreign Affairs finally got to going last July. Overcoming differences with the manufacturer Heckler & Koch, it used the first machine-readable passport (MRP) to a senior citizen named Dominic Taven. In the MRP, the passport holder's personal details are printed in a way that can be read by a machine automatically or by keyboard. Thus, the Philippines was able to comply way ahead of the deadline imposed by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) for all member countries to begin issuing MRPs by April 1, 2010. We are one of 100 member states of the specialized UN agency created to promote the safe and orderly development of international civil aviation.

* * *

Foreign Assistant Secretary Domingo Lantin of the Office of Consular Affairs explained to this columnist that the immediate benefit of having the MRP is that border processing all over the world will be faster. Our passports' "machine-readable zone" would only to be swiped or scanned at immigration counters instead. Instead of Taven being surprised from other passport with "more modern" passports, Lantin also said the MRP makes faking passports more difficult. Each MRP has a unique number that is scanned a digitized record placed in some secure on the identification page that incorporates biographical details of the holder visible only with the use of a decoding lens. This device makes photo-substitution difficult.

The new machine-colored passport has 32 more pages than the old green one but costs the same. The 36% more than green passport remains valid for five years. Now it is also the aspiring people to apply until for the MRP. I can only hope there's no traffic hard to fake, given the ingenuity of criminal syndicates.

* * *

Having vowed to split head again as the 21st century of the Philippines Dilmun campus, standing till 2049, the San Beda Law Alfred suits Bigtime Inc. It was the Benedictine Abbot Jerome Morales, prompting Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago to call for an inquiry, which was requested by her colleagues, Opposition Francis Pangilinan and Aquino Manuel. Juan Ponce Enrile. Marriage and Family Code Author Alan Peter Cayetano. Perhaps the Congress must review the law and consider abolishing all franchises and securities.

How can having be either? One may wait is to divide the oldest citizenship's tribe together with those combining the immense fines if they fail to supervise their customers. Under the Anti-Hazing Law, if a person dies due to hazing, all the officials and members of the organization who participated in the act are presumed guilty unless they prove otherwise by the preponderance of evidence. This is worse than the law since he is obligated to also penalize the owner of fields and school of the harassing, who must be identified. The reason for the automatic income forfeiture is that many often function there are no others to supervise and discipline them. This was one of the key findings of the investigation conducted following the fatal hazing of Servando Lenin Emmanuel Jerry Villa several years back, but nothing seems to have come out of it.

I recall a short story in our composition literature class in UP titled "The Use of Force" by William Carlos Williams. It was about a doctor who treated rich and ordinary people can succumb to human and sadistic tendencies in some point even when merely disciplining children. How much more those who are under the influence of liquor and perhaps drugs and left without supervision by elders?

* * *

Kay ex-Estrel Benedicto's case is the beneficiary of a fund-raising dinner concert for the widows and orphans of ordinary soldiers killed or wounded in action. The show, titled "Tribute to George," features such talents as Alice Dixson and classical violinist George Toquero. Among singer Ivy Violan, renowned soprano Rachel Gonzalez, and Cinco Angelo Jolliel, as the lead crooner part of Il Divo, backed up by the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra. Proceeds received to the gala Reyes will stop two members for the soldiers' families. The concert will be held at the Greenwoods Grand Ballroom on Friday, September 21, 2007, at 7 p.m. Call Rose at 911-38-21 or 4267188, or producer Beth Sison-Tagle at 0917-5588-858.

Piano lessons

MY ATTEMPT TO MASTER THE PIANO STARTED WHEN I was in Grade 1. I was asked by a classmate to accompany her to her piano lessons, which I gladly agreed to do. We would meet in a room adjacent to the school chapel. This room was where the nuns morning our school chapel, and this was where their kept take two pianos. I would sit in the sofa next to the piano, as my friend proceeded with her lessons. In time, I became fascinated by the pull movements of her fingers and I found myself enthralled by the harmony they produced.

YOUNG BLOOD

Jessa Hinsad

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their hopes, dreams or current fears? We welcome contributions from the twenty-something and below.—Ed.

When we were in Grade 3, I would slip into the room to hear the nun give piano lessons. When I thought she wasn't looking, I would open the cover and press the keys. I relished cautiously down the piano, and began to test my hands on the keys, imagining myself playing a piece. Soon, the piano teacher, with her nagging cheeks and deep set eyes, noticed and in a moment she was by my side. I looked up like a startled cat, my heart thumping.

She told me to get out, and that was the last time she permitted me in the room for my friends' lessons. When I thought she was not looking, I would open the cover and press the keys. My hands were trembling and my entire body was shaking.

She asked if I was a new student, and I inevitably answered no. But by then she was already scanning one of those booklets meant to play the piano. She began tapping a key and her finger and told me, "Do. This is do."

I immediately realized that she wasn't the worrying with that I thought she was, but for exact opposite. I found myself burning to play the "Do Re Mi Song."

The kind nun told me to come back, but after a couple of sessions, I would stop living myself to go there. I was afraid that she might ask payments for my lessons and thought my mom would kill me if she knew. I forgot about learning to play the piano.

When I was in grade 5, our family moved to the house that we still occupy today. I was home schooled. The house was adorned with beautiful china and porcelain vases as well as an antique piano. My mother, who is partly Chinese, is deeply superstitious, and she decided to keep the antique vases not because of their value, but because she believed they would bring good luck. My father had the piano tuned to an adequate level, and when it was brought back, I started playing the "Do Re Mi Song" again until I got bored and gave up.

On my father's birthday, a year that is a black suede shoe rather, carrying a little rainbow. The guests perfected around the piano, as he made the song part with his friends. After that, they began singing to his accompaniment, even as they continued several belated alcoholic drinks.

I admired the man's skill on the piano. It reminded me of the man's beautiful hands and the beautiful music she created, except that he was better. My desire to master the piano was revived, and I began imagining myself playing as well as he did someday.

That summer, my mother hired an old lady from the church's choir to my piano lessons. Almost every afternoon, the lady would hail once on our wood gates and demand us for her in. On the first day of my lessons, I was excited. She sat next to me in a loud voice, "Do! This is do! Do!" my fantasy about me playing like a piano virtuoso calmed into a nightmare. Every time I would press a wrong key, she would prize my finger in rage and bend it to right key and then make me strike it again and again until my finger felt sore. The piano lessons which lasted for a grueling month for just eight weeks came quickly to me as the insane would be over. I got tired of her, and she got tired of me. Before the summer was over, she quit saying she could take no more of her old age.

I yearned a few good pieces under some people who had the patience to take me seven more play and memorize exercises to observation.

Our piano remained untouched for a few years. Recently when I felt like playing my favorite piece again, I found that it was off-key. So joined was so horrible that I continued to play the piece for the desperate hope that by some miracle the piano would be tuned.

Of course, it didn't. Once again, my quest to mold magic on my fingertips was in a dead end. I couldn't call the man who graced by father's birthday a few years back, because I heard he had fled to another country to join his dear wife, and for me to ask my parents to pays from who could tune a piano urgently. I couldn't take piano lessons with the kind man I met many years ago, because she had gone to heaven, and another who was more horrifying than the old woman. From the thick had taken her place as a piano tutor in the schools.

So, here I am left with my unused fingers and a piano that is badly out of tune. But someday maybe someday, I will learn to play it well.

Jess Hinsad, 15, is a high school student at St. Catherine's College in Cagayan Valley.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph, together with your address, age and the school, name and e-mail address of your parent or guardian. Please also attach a holding card who accompany you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

In the dying light in a pauper's eyes

THE ABSENT ONE. THIS WAS HOW MOTHER Teresa referred to those destitute than she left in her life during her 50 year death night of the soul.

Fifteen was the 'infected', the one for whom she promised out the sacrifices of her life, for our pay, passed to give meaning and purpose to her selfless during existence the world's most abandoned?

Mother Teresa's own conclusions, kept and hidden even after her death 10 years ago, and made only in her private journal, are in the book "Come Be My Light" edited by Msgr. Brian Kolodiejchuk, no how the subject of sainthood and speculation, even of woe, if to "Bite Image

The doc who moved a mountain

WE WENT TO THANK MICHAEL Dee for winning Ateneo Doc Louie Jimenez, A-'83-'87. I, on Doc Louie's sidelines now and I want to share with Thinkers readers one more tribute to the noble Thinker-in-Chief.

"Ode to Lolo Iconic (in praise of Dr. Clemente Y. Jimenez)"

That age is dearth of somebody/ Who bends life for the people/ Lost heavy as a mountain/ But no, a dearth of somebody/ Who truly lie for the people/ Is only not a dearth could/ It's like trying to predict love/ But the late you involve a thread/ Or meeting the people's true desire

The poem was written by his 14-year-old granddaughter Rena Rose. She was inspired by this story about a foolish old man who went to a mountain and began to dig. A nine old man passed by and said, "What do you dig, foolish fool, man? Do you not know that you cannot move the mountain with a little shovel."

But the foolish old man answered resolutely "While the mountain cannot prevent higher, I will get lower with each shovel filled. When I pass on, my children, then children and their children's children will go on digging, making this mountain lower. Who can remove the mountain?"

He cannot think of any other way to describe how Doc Louie has become a part of so many people's lives. He canned on his work as a doctor fighting a disease caused by poverty, greed, exploitation and oppression with the dedication and determination of the foolish old man trying to move a mountain.

The way he cared for, valued and served other people, especially the poor and the oppressed, is the single most valuable legacy which he left for all of us. And we should all say our best to carry on our lives and our work this way. I am sure that that is the way that he would like to be remembered. Some day, people will write up and widen that the mountain had been moved.

—EVA GUTIAUC
jun.cutiauc@gmail.com

If you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and features in the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Sgt. Esguerra Extension, City of Makati or send a fax to him: 897-4784, 897-4794, or e-mail reader@mail.inquirer.com.ph

Please include your full name, complete address and telephone or pager number in e-mail addresses for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

Root cause

AGRARIAN REFORM BENEFICIARIES have two major challenges: access to education, and issues of quality ("Ate the basics, argued, Sept. 4, 2007, p. A13). I respectfully add the third major challenge: Philippine education is facing—from a traditional viewpoint in the system.

Corruption is the basic source of such problems as poor quality, basically created books, unfinished or sub-standard school buildings, missing funds, growing incompetence among the ranks where positions are given on the highest bidder, among many more and many more.

When will our education officials—our heads? The future of our children—the hope of our nation—is in stake here.

—JAMES TAMAYO,
tamayo1998@yahoo.com

GSIS explains fewer claims, loans

MR. WOLFGANG TEITHANGUL of Manual for Integrity was concerned over several issues about the Government Service Insurance System. He knew who communicated with Epson Bolanos of Bulacan that we could set up his 13-item list concerning the GSIS which unfortunately was only brought to our attention through Manuel's column.

However, permit us to explain the decline in the number of claims versus its GSIS claims and loans. It is true that the number of transactions decreased from 6 million in 2004 to 4.6 million in 2005, and 3.6 million in 2006. There is a fairly simple explanation for this. In 2004, the GSIS offered its car loan programs, the Cash Advance and the Optional Educational Insurance (SOS). In 2006, the GSIS offered an improved loan package called the Grace Loan. This loan program consolidated three types of loans, the Emergency Loan Assistance, SOS and the Salary Loan.

The Grace Loan extends the term of the loans to a maximum of 20 years. It also provides higher loan proceeds for members. Most importantly, the Grace Loan condenses all the penalties and surcharges that availing members have incurred from unpaid loans. Simply put, several loan programs were consolidated into one. From 2006, thus, the decline in the number of transactions.

We also appreciate the fact that 18-month agency with the GSIS Plus concept. We believe that this will end the problem of delinquency in the disbursement of claims and benefits but also promote customer and pensioners from fraud and inefficiency.

We also would like to have enlightened Manuel on some of the issues raised in his column.

—GILLE. VILLAMORINA,
Vice president,
Public Affairs Office,
Government Service Insurance System, Pasay City

One-sided report on 'Couples' split

THE NEWS ITEM TITLED "Barbosa to Gil: Two Couples' split," under the letters of Inquirer 7, Anabelle Chanson, 8/28/07), appears to be biased in favor of Antonio Meloto who is often quoted in this report. It's only his side of the issue that gets prominently interviewed.

There was also the alliance that Pedal Paddle formed a "barrio" dubbed as "Better to Playboy barrios." The reporter says he referring to the Reformation movement that have blossomed into the Couples for Christ Foundation for Family and Life (CFC-FFL).

Meloto is Pedal's group step—called a "Gawad Buhay" which cannot but be taken as a pejorative label considering that this is a "Catholic and faith-based community." It must have come from Pedal's detractors. Yet, it gets prominence in the report.

—GEORGE REL
geor2k@yahoo.com

I was covering an activity of the Ateneo Blue Eagles in the University of the Philippines when I chanced upon Antonio Meloto. Smartly, I took the opportunity to get his side on the reported split of the couples for Christ. Coincidence if the report seemed one-sided due to usual that there was no intention to make the article biased in favor of any personality involved in the case.

—JEANETTE LAMBARIL
reporter, Inquirer

Continued success for Inquirer, Cunanan

AS CHAPLAIN OF THE HOSPITAL OF THE Infant Jesus for many years, I have been buying a copy of the Inquirer every day from a vendor I congratulate for his public service.

In the buy, 22 issue, I was especially interested in the articles "Eight steps to a strong brain," "The world within reach," "10 years of working for China and country," "Are you sleeping with the enemy?" and "Taking hold of technology," among others.

And I am also interested in the column of Belinda Olivares-Cunanan, not just because she has mentioned my many times in her column but because of her objective stories on many events.

Wishing the Inquirer continued success in helping us have an objective view on the many events happening not in the Philippines and rest on a part of the world.

—FR. ISIDRO T. PAUL SJ,
president,
Educational Research and Development Assistance (ERDA) Foundation Inc., 61 Linao St., Sta. Mesa Heights, QC

Sigma Rho alumni also want justice for Mendez

IN THE PAST FEW DAYS, IT HAS BEEN reported in both print and broadcast media, that the UP Sigma Rho Fraternity was involved in the death of Leo Ambrose Mendez, a cadet UP student.

The Sigma Rho Council Inc., the alumni association of the UP Sigma Rho Fraternity, condemns in the strongest possible terms the untimely death of Mendez. We both urge the police and university authorities to thoroughly investigate this current tragic incident to know [illegible]

We condole with the family of Mendez. Words can never [illegible] and grief over the loss of a son. We assure his family that the Sigma Rho Council Inc. is interested, as much as bringing things to light so that justice may be served.

We also appeal to the media to be more circumspect in their reporting and not make a media circus out of this incident. Such will only serve to muddle the issue. Quite surely, the proper authorities are doing their job to solve the incident.

We once once more call for the university fraternities to intervene, curb the participation of university officials, and seek a common plan of action to initiate a collective consciousness, rooted in civic responsibility to put an end to senseless [illegible] evidence of violence in society.

—REYNALDO G. SOMERA JR.,
president,
Sigma Rho Council Inc.
Legaspi Village, Makati City

Across the NATION
Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

Student groups seek abolition of SKs

A TEENAGE boy fills out the application for registration for the yet-to-be-held Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections this year at the Commission on Elections office in Bukidnon province in Mindanao.

BAGUIO CITY—THE COUNTRY'S STUDENT GOVernments want the abolition of the "non-performing" Sangguniang Kabataan (SK), now that Congress has started deliberations on the fate of barangay and SK elections scheduled next month.

They announced in a Sept. 5 statement that they would launch a letter-writing campaign to draw attention to their appeal, which was issued on Tuesday at the close of the National Leadership Training for Student Governance (NLTSG) at Camp Tinoc in Southern Cagayan.

Where youth belong

Jose Pidoc, executive director of the Department of Education's Center for Students and Co-Curricular Affairs, said government must ensure that all youths go to school, a mandatory state service that 30 officers elected in exchange for salaries and perks offered by wealthy city, municipal and provincial council sessions.

Bernadeth Pe, president of the Region XI Federation of Student Governments, said they do not want the October elections to push through at all to enable government to reallocate the money meant for that polls to augment the budget for public education.

This was not the first appeal for SK abolition, the students said. But their teachers said this was the first generation on the SK coming from DepEd.

Better councils

To make student councils on barangays equipped to represent the country's youth than the SK, a carry-over from the Kabataang Barangay (KB) of the martial law period.

Student leaders said the student councils could begin consistency work to make up for the vacuum ignored if the SK is abolished.

The resolution, signed by 6,000 high school students and teachers, said the SK elections have "tainted our young minds into the ways of traditional politics because of the dirty tricks, vote-buying, bad-mouthing for votes or kidnapping and violence and intimidating employed by their relatives and parents, who are themselves politicians, and their political patrons."

Basis for existence

But Jin said the student government's have not completely realized its power since the SK has become corrupt.

"The SK has lost the basis of its existence with its miserable performance or non-performance in terms of its mandate for 15 years now. Instead of the youth becoming leaders, politicians used leadership, increase their social consciousness and enhance their participation in nation-building," the resolution said.

"The programs and projects being implemented by the SK are too insignificant if not entirely irrelevant, consisting mostly of construction of waiting sheds and signages that unnecessarily tear and perpetuate the SK officials' names, and wasting precious resources that could have funded more important and urgent concerns such as public education," Shiraef Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon

Roundup

Oil leaks from sunken ship

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—A still undetermined volume of oil has leaked from a 53-year-old wooden passenger ship off Siloyan Island in Barangay Maquiling, Cavinti municipality, during a salvaging operation to retrieve the derelict vessel on Tuesday.

"As of our latest count of the area, the oil which dripped from the sunken ship is still thick such its use is consider it as an oil spill. It's not an oil leak," said Batangas police director Chief Supt. Napoleon Estilong told the Inquirer.

Provincial Maritime police chief Senior Supt. Agripino Cruz also denied that the oil leak had reached the coastal villages of Pinamalayan town. "What he (Pogoy) who reported the incident saw was the place as Pinamalayan because the Island of Pambilan is part near the area," Cruz said in a mobile phone interview.

Estimates said workers hired by a shipping company were retrieving the sunken MV Mactan on Tuesday afternoon when its uncompartment was accidentally damaged. "We're still investigating what really happened and what is the accident of the oil leak," he said.

MV Mactan sank off Pambilan on April 29 with more than 1,000 passengers. —Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon

Japan funds fish project

SAGAYAN CITY—The Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica) has chosen this city and the towns of Linapacan and Bronzeby as recipients of a fish breeding project.

Mayor Cesar Fernandez Jr. said the project, a collaboration between the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources-National Integrated Fisheries Technology Development Center (BFAR-NIFTDC) and Jica, aims to enhance the livelihood of local fish growers and provide them with scientific knowledge and skills on aquaculture production.

Jica representatives, led by team leader Toko Kitanado, met with farmers and some village officials here on Aug. 28 to discuss the project's benefits for Claggaran's aquaculture industry. City agricultural Emma Dikito said Jica has chosen the village of Bonsari-Boang and Lucao here as pilot areas for the project. —Yolanda Estoño-Fuentes, Inquirer Northern Luzon

Waste burning discouraged

ANGELES CITY—The garbage problem here has prompted this city government to encourage residents to dig pits at the back of their houses for their non-biodegradable wastes.

The city government's environmental management system division, however, discourages residents from burning residual wastes and plastic materials, as the practice contributes to global warming.

Mayor Francis Nepomuceno told the residents that if they do not have backyards or spaces for pits, the wastes would be collected by the city to be brought to materials recovery facilities and eventually to a sanitary landfill.

The city government has started hauling 171 tons of residual wastes daily to the Quezon-operated sanitary landfill in Capas, Tarlac on May 16. —Jon Alisky, Inquirer Central Luzon

Woman killed in grenade blast

KIDAPAWAN, North Cotabato—A 50-year-old woman was killed while her year-old daughter and a relative were wounded when an unidentified man hurled a hand grenade inside their home here on Aug. 28.

Katrina Lumambas died while being operated on at The Cotabato Regional and Medical Center here. Lumambas' son-daughter and a relative, identified only as Edmon's, were asleep inside their house in Barangay Poblacion 7, when a man tossed the grenade in their bedroom, Supt. Elmo Membrano, Kidapawan police chief, said. —Edwin O. Fernandez, Inquirer Mindanao

2 motorcycle riders killed

SULTAN KUDARAT (MindaNews/6 Sept.)—Two motorcycle riding men were killed in an accident during the national highway here on Aug. 28.

Provincial police chief Supt. Ismael Ali said Tonda Mmandang, 18, and Montasir Saldia, 18, were thrown off and their heads smashed on a pavement in Barangay Talimahan here when they hit an approaching vehicle while trying to overtake another.

The motorcycle, an XRM Honda model, pedaled in the driver's attempt to evade the approaching vehicle, said Ali.

The victims, who suffered numerous head injuries, were not wearing helmets.

Authorities at the Cotabato Regional and Medical Center said the victims suffered fractured skulls and broken ribs. —Charlie C. Galvez, Inquirer Mindanao

Army recovers firearms

SAN PABLO CITY—Troops from the 74th Infantry Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division raided the house of Juanito Mendoza, alias Manky, former communist guerrilla leader based in Atimonan Peninsula, Quezon and believed to be the security aide of NPA spokesperson Ka Roger Rosal.

Mendoza eluded arrest but the Army soldiers found a cal. 22 rifle with scope, a shotgun, a 9 mm pistol, two night vision goggles, a telescope and blasting caps in his house.

Mendoza has several outstanding warrants of arrest. —Romelo Prado, Inquirer Southern Luzon

MILF says 3 Cabinet men waylaid peace talks

COTABATO CITY—THE MORO Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) has accused three Cabinet officials of the Arroyo administration of torpedoing the peace process.

A deadlock in the peace talks has been going on for about a year now after both sides disagreed on the issue of ancestral domain.

Apparently, the Malaysian government, which has been acting as third party facilitator, has called on the government to resume the stalled peace talks.

Mohammad Ameen, chair of the MILF peace panel, said he doubts if President Macapagal-Arroyo was really determined to have halted a legacy of peace in Mindanao by signing a peace pact with the MILF that is aimed to solve the Bangsamoro problem.

Ameen said there are many unresolved groups in and out of Mindanao who are out to make the Mindanao peace process a failure.

Describing them as the "devils" in the Arroyo administration, Ameen named Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, Interior and Local Government Secretary Ronaldo Puno and National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales as constituting the "spoilers."

"They are the unknown directors of the GRP/MILF peace process," Ameen charged in a statement.

He recalled that in 2000, peace advocates in Mindanao had an audience with Mr Arroyo in Malacañang. There was an impasse in the peace process and the MILFs and peace advocates have lobbied Malacañang to resume the stalled peace talks.

Ameen said during the meeting, the President called for 60 days to set hostile fire.

One of the questions raised to the President was on the update of the peace talks.

A BATTALION of Marines disembark upon their arrival on the Lumbia Port in Cagayan from their LST (Landing Ship Transport).

The President did not answer the question but asked Temia to do the talking.

"Gaya rin ng MILG, palusong lang sabi ang MILF (Like the MILG, we'll just wait for the MILF)," Ameen said, quoting one of the peace advocates according him.

Ameen did not say what was the role of Puno and Gonzales in the peace process.

With this promise, Ameen said he believed the Arroyos were not determined to link the peace process with the MILF these years into her last day in Malacañang.

A member of the MILF peace panel said they are puzzled with what is hardening Malacañang that it has been delaying the peace process.

Government and MILF negotiators met in Malaysia on Aug. 27 was to discuss the issue of ancestral domain to be included in the proposed Bangsamoro Juridical Entity but on the extension of services of international peace observers in Mindanao.

There was no discussion on when the peace talks would resume after they were stopped in September last year.

They, however, agreed to continue searching for economic projects for the resumption of peace talks.

Last weekend, MILF chief Al Haj Murad Ebrahim, told Muslims to be patient and remain hardworking.

"The struggle enters its 30th year, the more we persevere and never falter in our fight to overcome the MILF and to confront any obstacle along the route to victory," Murad told a group of Muslim religious preachers.

"I'm not here to run the front of your members, that is enemy, but if you die, that is another victory," he said. —Edwin O. Fernandez, Inquirer Mindanao

Drowned boy's body found

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—The body of a Grade 3 student was recovered on Wednesday, a day after he was reported missing while swimming in a river.

Senior Supt. Felix Paradies, Cavite police director, identified the victim as Daniel Sotbano, 10, a resident of Barangay Mangguhan of the said town.

Paradies said residents saw the body of Sotbano floating along a river at the back of New Cavite Industrial City factory just a few meters from the victim's house, at around 6:30 a.m.

He said the lifeless body was already decomposing when it was retrieved from the river. —Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon

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INQUIRER Southern Luzon

Calatagan mangroves under threat

By Marlon Alexander Lukero
Calatagan, Batangas

SO WHO'S KILLING THE MANgroves of scenic Calatagan?

The third-class municipality is poised to earn P21 million (P27 million) to finance projects that has been declared a tourist resource, a listing now threats, according to small fishermen.

Reports threats advocacy officer of the Sumahan ng Maliliit na mga Mangingisda sa Calatagan, said the project expansion of JG Private Farm in Barangay Tanggan would destroy the remaining mangroves in the area and the livelihood of thousands of fishermen.

JG Private Farm, a project of lawyer Juan Lorenzo Oreppan, has been constructing fishponds, pumping stations, fishnet-style building, laborers' quarters, a house and a wharf within mangrove-lined land in Tanggan.

"Calatagan is a tourist resource which is still under the process of rehabilitation. Sadly, we have been planting mangroves but a project would take wipe them out," said Alcuran.

The pastor-Aurin's manager, Sergio Magbanua, has denied the allegations. "We never cut the mangroves because we know it is illegal. I don't know what caused the death of the mangroves but we did not kill them."

He added that the farm owns helped by planting 30,000 mangroves in the sea.

Dialogue

Small fishermen asked Gov. Vilma Santos-Recto in a dialogue on Aug. 19 to help them protect the area and convince Environment Secretary Jose Ibo Atienza to pursue charges against those found violating the law.

The more than 40,000 hectares of municipal waters and 3954 by 25 villages are natural areas, according to Jessie de los Reyes, chief of the Calatagan Municipal Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Council.

About 80 percent of the municipal shoreline is good condition with threatened but is known to need all the Pagapas Bay, he said. Irrigation are usually tighter in the area.

"Development projects, however, are now threatening these marines and the town's rich natural resources," he said.

To its fishes and the livelihood of at least 5,000 families, who receive from the sale of fish, seashells, sea cucumbers, shellfish, sea urchins and other marine creatures, would suffer as a result of the destruction of mangroves.

ECC document

Magbanua said the firm's sponsoring activities were covered by an environmental compliance certificate (ECC) issued by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. He denied that the new roads had destroyed the mangroves.

THE JG Private Farm project in Barangay Tanggan, Calatagan, Batangas is said to have caused the death of mangrove stands in the area.

LIFELESS mangroves trees inside the JG Private Farm in Barangay Tanggan, Calatagan town.

The farm was "totally compliant of laws," he added, claiming that it only developed the eight-hectare land area covered by the project's ECC.

Alcuran confirmed that the farm was able to obtain an ECC from the DENR's regional Environmental Management Bureau on Oct. 5-6, 2005.

In a letter sent to DENR regional executive director Eduardo Pinzon on Aug. 17, the provincial environment and natural resources officer, Rhoniel Ibañez, recommended the temporary suspension of the ECC pending resolution of certain issues, including claims that "the development project caused the death of mangrove stands."

Josefa Epalanga, 44, of Barangay Tanggan, who earns P400 daily from selling seashells, said several mangroves had died and caused the shells to move to another habitat.

"We cannot even get close to the sea because we are being represented by the boss," she said, adding that she had to travel to the area just to be able to gather seashells.

Magbanua belied Epalanga's claims that the farm owner destroyed mangroves adjacent to the sea. "Those people are always saying we are destroying the mangroves, but I challenge them to come here personally and show what we are doing," he said.

Reclamation project

Another issue is the reclamation project of businessman Reinerio Mercado at the Pagapas Bay, which the small fishermen said had destroyed corals and seagrass beds in the bay. The DENR has already issued two notices of violations against the project.

Then Environment Secretary Michael Defensor directed the dismantling of the reclaimed access road in June 2005, but this was stopped by a court when it issued a preliminary injunction order.

Environmental lawyer Wilma Dej Lyon said criminal charges of violations of the Water Code could still be filed by the DENR against Mercado for allegedly blocking the entry of water to the mangroves. Santos could help them convince the DENR secretary to file the case, she said.

During her dialogue with the small fishermen, Governor Santos said she would study the issues raised by the fishermen but did not promise a quick solution.

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CEBU PACIFIC

Young inventor helps builders reduce costs

By Fernan Duran
Daet, Camarines

THE CAPITAL TOWN OF THE storm-tossed island province of Camarines is home to a young inventor who holds the patent for a cost-saving construction material that is now being used by local contractors and house builders.

Boxes of the prefabricated gabionized iron boxes invented by 22-year-old Jester Toops are being sold in hardware stores at P80 per kilo, saving construction companies or house owners more than 50 percent in labor costs.

In fact, the Japanese contractor of the multi-million peso Daguan bridge project has indicated interest in purchasing the prefabricated units.

Time-saving

What is now a promising business for Toops began as a moment of an idea when he was a 12-year-old Grade 6 student and playing at their neighbor's house three kilometers away. "I wondered why it took so long for a worker to cut and bend the tie wire when it could have been used as a ready-made material," he recalls.

He kept the idea at the back of his mind for the next several years, graduating from the Camarines College as a computer technician. He went to Makati City to work as a waiter at (Name) la Hotel.

After a year, Toops returned and began putting his ideas on paper—some sketches and others on computer—and finally completed many moving parts. In January 2005, he finally applied for a patent of his invention at the Intellectual Property Office, paying a total of P1,200 in fees.

Patent

On Nov. 10, 2006, he got Patent No. 2-2005-000000 for his prefabricated tie wire and began making a simple machine to make his product. He has already perfected a machine—built from P300 worth of small pipes, bearings and tire spokes—in Manila where he contracted four 15-storey condominium being constructed on Espeña Avenue.

His sales pitch to the contractor worked so well that he was asked to deliver 10 tons of his wire right then and there. Amazed by

QUESTA Toops, 22, inventor of the prefabricated gabionized tie wire.

the offer, he reportedly told the buyer that he has only 10 kilos available.

Still, he took in a great inspiration from the contractor's advice to him that he must come back if he already had 10 tons.

Toops went back to Daet and had three more of the machines fabricated. He never went back to Manila to deliver the 10 tons, he decided to start small so he could test his business plans.

Today, his ICT Manufacturing employs five household in Barangay Pamot, with machine and seven disabled youth coming by after to finished lengths while watching TV at night.

At his parents' house, Toops employs four machine operators and one puller, who altogether produce 140 kilos daily. Each hour of 20 kilo packs is sold for P76 per kilo to hardware stores, which sell them for P80 on retail.

The inventor's father Orlan, 63, a retired school principal, says his son—the middle of three children—would have inherited his inventive streak from his grandfather Delos Reyes, who did not finish schooling but was good at mathematics.

Among his other ideas—about 10 in all and carefully drawn on papers—are a seat belt for use for tricycle drivers, a mobile rain connector to replace the junction box in electrical systems, and a hood massager built from discarded electronic fan covers.

Business, FVR, Enrile, Ermita on Erap verdict

from page 1

criminals and a short list of big fish who are punished for wrongdoing," he said.

According to Ged Castillo, the business community expects a verdict of conviction and corresponding punishment for Estrada, who is under house arrest at his mansion estate in Tanay, Rizal.

"Confidence will be affected," he said of the prospect of an acquittal or a pardon.

Nonetheless, the business community is focused on the economic fundamentals and will be unnerved only if the amnesty situation deteriorates as a result of the Sandiganbayan decision, whatever it may be, Del Castillo said.

No choice

In Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile's opinion, Estrada has no choice but to accept a presidential pardon should the anticipated court convict him of plunder.

A pardon is not for Estrada to reject because when the Presidency grants it, she can immediately quit our the guards from his vicinities or not, according to Enrile.

The senator expressed doubt that a verdict of acquittal would again raise questions on the legitimacy of the Arroyo administration.

He pointed out that Estrada's term had already run its course and that Mr. Arroyo was serving a new term. Thus, he said, there was no reason for Mr. Arroyo to be insecure about her term.

Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, the convicted President's eldest son, said there was no reason for Ms. Arroyo to fear any payback from his father should the verdict be an acquittal.

"We are only out to clear our father's name; we have no other agenda," the younger Estrada said.

On the other hand, former President Fidel Ramos told the business set Tuesday that all talk about a pardon for Estrada in case of a conviction was premature.

SWS survey

He said government officials should wait for the court's verdict before making such an offer.

Ramos should his head at the mention of the recent Social Weather Stations survey showing that most residents of Mega Manila were in favor of a pardon for Estrada.

"You wait for the court," he stressed.

'Consider the people'

At a press conference in Mahasarang, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said the Sandiganbayan's verdict could be saved by certain quarters to sow chaos and instability and that it was up to Estrada to ease the tense political atmosphere.

Ermita also called on the feuding rube and a procedure to minimize the pressure of blood in the heart.

At any time

"As a lay person, without sounding morbid, we take this to mean that the Good Lord may call her any time," Enjoining said in a three-page motion filed with the Sandiganbayan's Special Division.

In seeking the court's permission to make regular visits to his mother, Estrada also acknowledged the difficulties of trips to and from his vacation estate in Tanay, Rizal, where he is being detained.

"We, therefore, seek good since the is the doctor, the prescription and the police, as to what may be agreed upon for recommendation and submission to the court on that [Estrada] may regularly see his mother in the weeks ahead ..." part of the motion read.

Erap seeks regular pass to be with dying ma

By Jocelyn R. Uy

ESTRADA

JOSEPH ESTRADA has asked the Sandiganbayan to grant him a pass to make regular visits to his ailing mother at the San Juan Medical Center.

Through his lawyer, former Sen. Nene Pimentel, Estrada yesterday said his request was made considering that judgment day was near for her and to be at his 102-year-old mother's bedside, as advised by the family doctor.

The verdict on Estrada's plunder case is expected to be issued on or before Sept. 14, unless the justices of the anti-graft court's Special Division request the Supreme Court for an extension.

Pimentel presented a letter sent him by Dr. Lorenzo Herrera stating that the condition of Estrada's mother, Mary Ejercito, could "deteriorate at any given time" after three outlined procedures.

Ejercito has been confined at the hospital since Aug. 10 for treatment of pneumonia and hypertension.

Herrera said Ejercito had endured the insertion of a

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NEWS

Ex-spy chief called to Senate probe

VICE ADMIRAL TIRSO DANGA, FORMER WESTern Command chief, has been asked to appear before the Senate investigation into the "Hello Garci" wiretapping scandal, which begins on Friday.

However, Danga will have to seek approval from President Macapagal-Arroyo to appear at the hearing, as required by Executive Order No. 464 and Memorandum Circular 108, said Armed Forces spokesperson Col. Bartolome Bacarro.

"We will seek clearance from the Chief Executive for the attendance of our officers in any such hearing," Bacarro told reporters yesterday.

Danga was the head of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces (ISAFP), whose agents supposedly tapped into the phone conversations of his superiors and leaked her ask former election commissioner Virgilio Garcillano about "the addition of 1 million votes" for her in the 2004 elections.

Danga, who retires on Sept. 24, relinquished his post as chief of the Western Command last June.

The AFP's Office of Legislative Affairs (OLA) received the Senate invitation for Danga last Monday.

Bacarro said the OLA will draft a letter to the President in collaboration with the Judge Advocate General (JAG). The letter will be signed by AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr.

Esperon himself was among the military officers summoned to the controversial tape.

Senators reiterated that while the Supreme Court has declared EO 464 unconstitutional, there are certain provisions in it that the high court deemed legal.

One of those was the Presidential's right to bar executive officials from appearing during the question hour in both the Senate and the House of Representatives.

Generals, flag officers and other officers of the Armed Forces are among officials covered by the ban.

Memorandum Circular 108 contains the guidelines on the appearance of officials of the executive department before Congress. It states that all legislation or bills within the scope of executive privilege, according to the circular. *Nikko Dizon*

Executive privilege can block probe, says Miriam

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

EVEN WITHOUT EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 464, President Macapagal-Arroyo can still block Cabinet members' and top military officials' appearing before a Senate investigation into the "Hello Garci" wiretapping scandal by invoking her constitutional right to executive privilege.

"The Supreme Court merely invalidated EO 464. It never invalidated the constitutionally based doctrine of executive privilege," said Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, a constitutional law expert.

Santiago defined executive privilege as the President's power to withhold information on state secrets covering diplomatic, military, foreign relations and other sensitive national security issues.

"Executive privilege is not unique only to the Philippine or US Constitutions, but it is accepted as constitutional. Both countries have applied the doctrine in a line of cases," she said in a privilege speech.

Revisiting 'Hello Garci'

The Senate this week decided to revisit the Hello Garci controversy, assigning the committees on defense, accountability and constitutional amendments and revision of codes and laws to conduct a probe.

The results are up another Senate showdown with Malacañang as Cabinet officials and military officials are likely to be summoned to testify on the alleged wiretapping operation by the Armed Forces intelligence service during the 2004 elections.

Santiago said the Supreme Court, in an Senate vs Ermita decision, "merely declared EO 464 as invalid because it made only an implicit claim of executive privilege."

That fault can be corrected by the Senate making "a formal, explicit claim of privilege," she senator said.

Another reason the high court struck down EO 464 was that it was a general or blanket prohibition on all Cabinet members and other high officials from testifying in Congress.

"That fault could also be corrected by specifying the facts which make the information a confidential state secret for the particular official," Santiago said.

Round 2

Santiago said that in the later case of Gudani vs Senga in 2006, the Supreme Court ruled that to prevent military officials from testifying in Congress, the President does not even have to claim executive privilege because she is already the Commander in Chief.

"If the President is adamant, her people could be cited for contempt, but it is possible that the corresponding warrant of arrest may not be served, since the president has the entire Armed Forces behind her," Santiago said.

But the senator did not discount the possibility of a second round of a legal battle at the Supreme Court between Malacañang and the Senate on the issue of congressional access to executive branch officials.

"Let's wait for developments. If it comes to bullpit, maybe we'll see Senate versus Estrella Part 2," she said.

Santiago and other administration senator have warned their colleagues of the legal implications of possessing and playing information that had been illegally obtained such as the private conversation between the President and former election commissioner Virgilio Garcillano.

Aplus METRO
Editor Rose G. Dipasupil

DID YOU KNOW

ANG GIAN architect Daniel Burnham was born on Sept. 4, 1846 in New York. During the American occupation of the Philippines, he designed the cities of Manila and Baguio, which now has a park named after him.

In his 1905 proposal for Manila, Burnham suggested the development of waterways for transportation, the construction of parks and the provision for summer resorts. His plans for the city, however, were not fully implemented.

Cynthi Zamalloa, Inquirer Research

UP college drops stude as council prexy

Expulsion from university looms for frat recruiter of alleged hazing victim

By Jeannette I. Andrade, Margaux C. Ortiz, TJ Burgonio and Norman Bordadora

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES NATIONAL College of Public Administration and Governance yesterday stripped Ariel Paolo Amir, the president of its student council, of his position and recommended his expulsion from the university for his suspected involvement in the hazing death of Cris Anthony Mendez.

In an order signed by NCPAG Dean Alex Brillantes Jr., the faculty council asked UP authorities "to enforce all legal and administrative measures to expel Mr. Amir from the university."

The resolution was reached after the faculty council, headed by Brillantes, withdrew its recognition of Amir as chair of the NCPAG student council for lack of confidence and dereliction of duty.

"Mr. Amir has failed to exercise principled and moral leadership by his absence during the critical days after the death of an NCPAG student, by his inability to uphold student welfare, by his failure to mobilize the NCPAG Student Council to collectively respond to the death of a student council official, and by his deafening silence and unexplained absence," the NCPAG resolution said.

"The council condemns this behavior as not only irresponsible but also as an obstruction of justice," it added.

Mendez, like Amir, was an NCPAG student and a member of the college's student council. He was also the college representative to the UP Student Council.

Mendez was brought to the Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City on Aug. 27 where he was pronounced dead on arrival. An autopsy report revealed that he had been beaten up badly, bolstering initial suspicions that his death could have resulted from initiation rites allegedly conducted by the Sigma Rho fraternity for neophytes.

Amir, a Sigma Rho member, reportedly recruited Mendez to join the fraternity.

No contact

Brillantes said Amir had not made any effort to contact or talk to them since news about Mendez's death broke out.

Once expelled, Amir would not be able to enroll in any UP campus nationwide, he added.

"We want to issue a very strong statement that violence is not tolerated in our university," Brillantes said.

He told the Inquirer that Amir had been recommended for suspension before for his alleged involvement in a fraternity rumble last July.

That recommendation has not been carried out because no warrant to arrest him was presented. But this time, we sought legal advice and we were given the go-ahead," the dean said.

The UP Alumni Association, meanwhile, has offered its help to any person who may have vital information that could lead to the arrest of the people responsible for the death of Mendez.

"The senseless loss of life of Cris Mendez, who held much promise for his family and this nation, brings us to face the need for a strict implementation of the Anti-Hazing Law. It likewise calls for the highest degree of vigilance among university authorities, members of the faculties and the students so that any form of violence and other illegal activities of fraternities and sororities may be stopped or prevented effectively," the UPAA board of directors said in a statement.

Call

They also called on all fraternities and sororities and other student organizations to "stop, condemn and never countenance violence and other barbaric activities" and on "others to the side of law and civil order."

Fraternities in universities darker on the "grievous support" of influential alumni and violence-countenancers because it's part of a fraternity's compadre system and, activist priest Fr. Robert Reyes said.

"Nothing within and beyond the universities, colleges and schools is the first alumni. These are the graduates who have left the university and now occupy very influential and powerful government positions in society," he said in a statement issued from Hong Kong.

"Many of these older men claiming to be gentlemen are quite dangerous. The fraternity officers keep these men with them and are quite willing and happy to do so because of the generous support that consequently flows," said Reyes, who served as UP parish priest from 1996 to 2003.

A prominent member of the Sigma Rho Fraternity meanwhile, said that there was still no proof that the organization was involved in Mendez's death.

"There is no concrete evidence that the death of the UP student was caused by the fraternity's initiation rites," Rolo Vice Gov. Ruben Ingleton said.

Doc, fratmen in alleged hazing case no-shows at NBI

By Tina G. Santos

THE DOCTOR WHO BROUGHT suspected hazing victim Cris Anthony Mendez to the Veterans Memorial Medical Center was a no-show at the National Bureau of Investigation yesterday.

Dr. Dagohoy Cruz Jr., assistant chief of the VMMC epidemiology department, had given his assurance to the National Bureau of Investigation that he would appear at the bureau after he was served with a subpoena the other day.

Instead, Cruz sent his lawyer, Rafael Arnaiz, to the NBI.

"The doctor could not make it today so I came in his behalf. We will be submitting his statement to the NBI. If you want to know anything, ask the NBI," he told reporters shortly after he met briefly with Senior Supt. Reynaldo Esmeña, chief of the NBI Anti-Terrorism Division, who was tasked to handle the case.

"He has a right to privacy," Arnaiz said when asked why his client did not show up. He identified, however, that Cruz was not hiding from authorities.

Arnaiz said he expects Cruz to submit his affidavit on the bureau within the week. "He needs to extract in his statement before the NBI," he added.

Also at the bureau yesterday was Dr. Daphne Guzeta, the VMMC doctor who examined Mendez when he was brought to the hospital by Cruz.

Accompanied by her lawyer, Freddie Lingan, Guzeta submitted a statement to the NBI but refused to answer questions from the media.

Special Investigator III Rogelio A. Famaran of the NBI-ATD said Guzeta confirmed that she was the one who declared Mendez dead.

"She said that she noticed Mendez had several hematomas all over his body—in the arms, legs and feet. She did not notice any open wound, though," Famaran said.

Asis explained that Guzeta's statement was significant as it corroborated VMMC security guard Jonathan Gaellaso's claim that it was Cruz who took Mendez to the hospital at around 1 a.m. last Aug. 27.

"She said she even asked Cruz where he found Mendez and Cruz reportedly answered that the victim was only brought to him," Famaran said.

Cruz and Guzeta were among several people subpoenaed by the NBI in connection with the death of Mendez, a student of the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City.

Those who did not show up at the bureau yesterday included Student Station, said to be a member of the Sigma Rho fraternity, the group Mendez reportedly joined as a neophyte before his death; Israel Pedrajas, the National College of Public Administration and Governance student council chair and fraternity member who was reportedly the last to be seen with Mendez when he was still alive.

"We will again summon them to appear on Friday," Asis said, adding that they would also invite four other people, including Raul Gingoben, the Sigma Rho fraternity president.

DR. DAPHNE Guzeta (left), who examined hazing victim Cris Anthony Mendez when he was brought in the Veterans Memorial Center, arrives at the National Bureau of Investigation with her lawyer as Rafael Arnaiz (right), the counsel of another VMMC doctor, Dr. Prentiss Cruz Jr., talks to reporters. Cruz was the one who took Mendez to the hospital.

Pasig City brings tax claim to SC

By Kristine L. Alave

THE PASIG CITY GOVERNment will not back down from its fight to collect P455 million in franchise tax from the Manila Electric Co.

Mayor Robert Eusebio yesterday said the city government's legal team was preparing to reinstate the case in the Supreme Court.

On Aug. 28, the Court of Appeals' 10th Division dismissed the Pasig City government's plea to collect P455 million from Meralco, representing the franchise tax the power firm supposedly owed the city from 1994 to 1999.

The appellate court's decision reversed and set aside the ruling of the Pasig City Regional Trial Court Branch 70 which earlier affirmed the validity of the city government's demand for payment.

According to the appellate court, Pasig has no authority to legally assess and collect a franchise tax from Meralco because it did not enact an ordinance authorizing it to do so.

Stop pampering illegal settlers, says MMDA's Fernando

By Jillian W. Lopez and Kristine L. Alave

ILLEGAL SETTLERS SHOULD NOT BE rewarded with new houses in relocation sites as they are just encouraging other people to build along esteros, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando told reporters yesterday at the Metro Pacific Tower in Manila.

The MMDA demolished dozens more structures in Makati and Pasay last week as part of their flood control operations.

Residents living near esteros and creeks have been blamed for floods that occur in the area during a heavy downpour because they reportedly clog the waterways with garbage.

Fernando said that if illegal settlers are not rewarded with relocation sites, this would discourage other people from following their example.

According to him, the MMDA's "Balik Probinsya" program, which offers free money to illegal settlers who volunteer to go home to their provinces, was still ongoing as it was also meant to reunite a study that by 2020, 80 percent of people worldwide would be living in the cities.

Apart from cleaning esteros, Fernando said they plan to remove obstructions on 3,000 kilometers of roads in Metro Manila to improve traffic flow.

The "Three Clean Roads" project, he said, is aimed at opening more streets for the use of motorists to help solve the perennial traffic problem.

"We have about 5,000 km of roads in Metro Manila but only 2,000 km are being used. Most of these are cramped into feeder roads," he said.

The MMDA would install barriers on sidewalks to prevent cars and buses from using them.

"We are also elevating the sidewalks on Edsa to prevent motorists from parking on them," he said.

Discipline, added Fernando, should be instilled among motorists, especially among bus drivers who take a long time maneuvering their vehicles from their garages on their way to Edsa.

Mar Roxas' early campaigning

ON TARGET
Ayessa Jajo

HEAD OF AGENTS OF THE National Intelligence Coordinating Agency (NICA) is doing at the place?

The NICA, the country's counterpart of the US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), is supposed to be interpreting reports collated from the government's various intelligence agencies and units.

Its main job is purely intelligence gathering, not going after smugglers or smuggling.

But lately, NICA agents have allegedly been interfering in purely customs matters such as ordering the intelligence men of the Bureau of Customs to seize cargoes containing highly dutiable goods.

My suspicion is that agents are that these agents, led by a guy with a Chinese-sounding surname, have been extracting money from importers who facilitate the release from customs of valuable cargo.

NICA agents reportedly demand P5,000 for each container that rolls out of the South Harbor and the Manila International Container Port, according to sources.

Those exempt NICA agents have also gained notoriety because of the job of the Presidential Anti-Smuggling Group (PASG) that, as this has kept its men relatively busy, my sources said.

Why "relatively busy"? Because the Intervention Against Illegal Drugs (IAID) unit, considered by ground subordinates as more suspicious they are examining with smugglers.

* * *

Still somebody tell Sen. Manuel "Mar" Roxas II the 2010 presidential election is still three years down the road?

He's much too early in the campaign trail. Blessedly unprotected, making him look like an eager beaver kid.

Just so voters will not forget him, Roxas went to visit the public market in Baguio City to apparently remind market-goers and vendors that he's still "Mr. Palengke."

The grandson and namesake of the illustrious President Manuel Roxas has invited two warring TV comedians hosts, "Willie Revillame and Ang de Leon, to the ongoing ballfest the Senate.

The purported reason for the invitations is to stand light on the supposedly P1-million "Tibawanon" game show scandal.

But o'cmon, Mr. Senator, we know the real reason. Only those who were born yesterday wouldn't know your reason for initiating the Senate investigation of the alleged game-show scandal. Publicity cudlungs.

* * *

When an unexpected disaster strikes your home, like a member of the family having a stroke, what do you do?

You would know all the necessary steps to take before rushing your victim to the nearest hospital if you studied first aid at the Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC).

Sept. 8, Saturday, a World First Aid Day. The rest of the week is National First Aid Month.

Your knowledge of first aid will come in handy when you stumble upon a disaster and victims need immediate medical attention en route.

If you're interested in learning first aid, call up telephone number 527-0000, local 320 or 329, or 527-8979, if you're in Manila.

You can inquire from your local Red Cross chapter if you're outside Manila.

* * *

Sen. Dick Gordon, PNRC chair, has set an ambitious goal. Having at least one member of every household learn first aid and known what to do in case of calamity.

That's so every four persons (assuming there are four members in every family) belong a Red Cross volunteer.

If you think that goal is unattainable, you don't know Dick Gordon.

As head of the govern ment agency that runs the Subic Freeport, Gordon was able to convince his constituents in Olongapo City and Zambales to work as volunteers without pay until the Freeport became self-sufficient.

BEST FOOT FORWARD
A client gets an Magsikwan Service, UP Village in Quezon City pampers it (bubble bath) a variety of services. ...PAGE 14 A AND

Father, son caught with illegal catch from Taguig City fishpen

By Julie M. Aurelio

A FISHERMAN AND HIS SON were caught yesterday with a net full of bangus (milkfish) by the caretaker of a Taguig City fishpen who alleged that the pair stole the catch worth at least P170,000.

Enrique Pineda was able to escape but his son, Randy, 19, was caught redhanded with the milkfish inside his boat, said SPO3 Eduardo Dalisay, case investigator.

Pedpen owner Generando Cayetano said he was told about the incident a few hours after his caretaker caught the suspects.

An investigation showed that at around 12:30 a.m. yesterday, the Pineda were seen allegedly stealing the Cayetanos fishpen at Tipas.

The fishpen is located along the Taguig City portion of Laguna Lake, where many other fish cages are located.

Boat Olivito, caretaker of the fishpen, told police that he caught the Pinedas, relatives of Barangay Ibayo-Tipas chief Godofredo Pineda, in the act of loading the fish on board a boat which they apparently planned to use to escape.

The elder Pineda, however, was able to flee from his cage.

Police are preparing to file charges of qualified theft against the two suspects.

Student killed for not giving up phone

By Tina G. Santos

AN 18-YEAR-OLD student who refused to give up his cell phone was shot and killed by a group of gunmen in Tondo, Manila the other night.

Brad Andrew Hidalgona, a resident of Bonifacio Street in Tondo, was pronounced dead on arrival at the Mary Johnston Hospital for a gunshot wound to the back.

Police are looking for the suspect, identified as Ernesto Mata Jr. alias JR, who fled after the shooting.

Investigators learned that the incident happened at 11:15 p.m. at the suspect's house on Main Street, also in Tondo.

The victim, accompanied by a friend identified only as Apolito, was texting on his cell phone when they passed by Mata.

Police said the suspect suddenly grabbed the victim's cell phone but the latter was able to hold on tightly to it as he tried to run away.

The youngster then ran to pull out a gun and shoot the victim, hitting him in the back, police added, citing the testimony of witnesses.

METROBRIEFS

100 people lose homes in Antipolo fire

ABOUT 100 people were left homeless when a fire gutted a cluster of houses in Antipolo City, at dawn yesterday. According to the fire department's report, the blaze started at 4:15 a.m. in a house owned by the Gonzales family in Mambog I Main village and quickly spread to other shanties, which were mostly made of wood. Many did not arrive immediately. Initial estimates on damaged due to each fire-site ones they put loss to three sites, the village PIO Gary Gamboa said the fire also caused by an unidentified teenagers old, which was also in their confiscated the materials. He said damages to the property also placed between P500,000 and P400,000. No one was injured or killed in the blaze. Gamboa said the displaced families were evacuated to the barangay hall and health center.

Kristine L. Alave

Man kills wife who tried to leave him

A 66-YEAR-OLD man shot his wife to death inside their house in Quezon City after she tried to leave her abusive husband, police yesterday revealed. Guillermo Sun, how other their neighbors reported hearing a gunshot from the couple's house in Barangay San Agustin, Novaliches. They found his wife, Loreta, 62, with a gunshot wound on the forehead. She had died instantly. According to suspect from the Novaliches Police District. It added that neighbors heard the couple arguing early in the morning and after a complaining about her husband's Gutierrez and failure to send work. Sun Jose, on the other hand, accused him of not being faithful. The police report said that the argument became more heated and Loreta started packing up her things. But as she was gathering her belongings, Sun Jose allegedly took his .38 revolver and shot her in the head at 9:30 a.m. Police said they would charge him with parricide.

Kenneth M. dela Rosario

Women power to the rescue

AN all-woman police team arrested and killed a robber after he held up a cell center operator Quezon City. The police team, members of the Caloocan City District Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit led by Senior Insp. Cherry Lou Bonilla, 33, also recovered the cellphone of Michelle Bona Sanchez. The victim was robbed by Jeffrey Gonzales at gunpoint at around 3:45 p.m. Monday when a man pointed a gun at her and grabbed her bag. He was about to flee when the robber screamed, catching the attention of the police team which was on patrol. The police members ran after the suspect but he fired on them, forcing them to fire back.

Jeannette I. Andrade

MMDA launches Traffic Radio on Sept. 24

FOR 17 hours every day, Metro Manila motorists can tune in to a radio station specially made for all 1.4 million of them. On Sept. 24, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority's Traffic Radio 1008 AM, a radio station devoted mostly to traffic updates and road conditions, will go on the air. The MMDA announced that it will implement go-to Traffic Radio when it described as "virtually a road show with lots of news, information, public service, entertainment and with every hour, on the hour traffic reports." MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando said the station, which operates on at 4 a.m., will serve as a conduit between the agency and listeners about traffic and road conditions, as well as reminders for the commuting public, and of course ours.

ILTier

Drama on breastfeeding to air over dzRH

ON Sept 6 to 7 from 9 to 10:30 p.m., radio station dzRH will feature 'Gatas sa Dibdib,' a drama-musical it will tackle the benefits of breastfeeding. Hosted by Cecilia Gutierrez-Alvarez, the program, launched by the World Health Organization, Department of Health and the United Nations Fund for Population Activities and the United Nations Children's Fund, is aimed at educating people about breastfeeding.

WORLD BRIEFS

Thaksin won't return to Thailand

LONDON — Former Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra is unlikely to return to Thailand in the near future because he fears for his safety, a close friend said. A day after a Thai court issued a two-year jail sentence in his absence, Thaksin's public relations company said the exiled former leader was innocent of any crime. "Dr. Thaksin maintains his innocence and states that he is unlikely to be able to return to Thailand in the short term because of personal safety issues," the Bell Pottinger Group said in an e-mail statement. AP

Mahathir undergoes 2nd bypass

KUALA LUMPUR — Malaysia's former Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad was recovering in intensive care on Wednesday after his second heart bypass surgery. The hospital treating him said in a statement: "Dr. Mahathir is happy with his rate of progress, which is as expected in post-bypass surgery." Kuala Lumpur's National Heart Institute said: The 82-year-old former leader was admitted to the heart institute on Sunday after suffering two heart attacks in the past year and spent about five hours on the operating table on Tuesday. AFP

US adventurer Fossett missing

RENO — US millionaire adventurer Steve Fossett, who made record-breaking solo flights by plane and balloon, has disappeared over the Nevada desert after taking off in a small plane to round other his aviation/sports cars a world land speed record, authorities said on Tuesday. The Federal Aviation Administration said Fossett, 63, was reported missing on Monday night after taking off from a ranch in a single-engine aircraft in the morning. Reuters

Bomb kills 11 in Baghdad

BAGHDAD — A roadside bomb rocked an eastern Baghdad Shiite neighborhood early Wednesday, killing at least 11 people and injuring 19 others when it exploded next to buses used by morning commuters, police and hospital officials said. Blast silenced the ground around a small crater created by the bomb, which went off on the predominantly Shiite neighborhood of Kadhimiyah just before 6 a.m. Video from Associated Press Television News showed the scene strewn with broken glass and littered with people's shoes and other items. AP

Felix batters Nicaragua

MANAGUA — A furious Hurricane Felix on Tuesday left a trail of devastation in an already destitute area of Nicaragua, killing at least four people, including a one-year-old baby, and destroying 1,000 homes. AFP

1ST KOREAN ASTRONAUT

South Korean roboticist expert and former amateur boxing champion Ko Sun-ill be the country's first person in space when he flies on a Russian Soyuz capsule to the International Space Station next year. The 33-year-old Ko, who works at the Korea Aerospace Research Institute, beat out 17 less-cyan, a 29-year-old female mechanical engineer, following performances and other tests during training in Russia. AP

N. Korea closer to being delisted

WASHINGTON — NORTH KOREA is closer to being removed from the US state sponsors of terrorism list following scientific moves to end its nuclear weapons programs, a US official said on Tuesday.

US nuclear envoy Christopher Hill told the North's Koreans at a Geneva meeting in the weekend that there were only a few more issues that need to be resolved before Kim Pyongyang's removal from the blacklist, the official said.

"My understanding is that by month 4 pretty close to there that the remaining issues...at least on the terrorism list piece of this...are not that extensive," the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The official said the outstanding issues included North Korea's explanation over Al alleged involvement in the 1987 midair bombing of Korean Airlines Flight 858, which killed all 115 people aboard.

"What I also am trying to get away from is the notion that this is purely going to be, 'we just decide we are going to do it and they don't have to answer the questions about the BAL issues and couple of other things that got them on the list in the first place," the official said.

The State Department says in its website that North Korea, designated in January, 1988 as a state sponsor of terrorism, "is not known to have sponsored any terrorist acts since the bombing of a Korean Air liner flight in 1987."

But it noted that the fate of Japanese nationals abducted by North Korea remained an unresolved and "contentious" issue. It also said that four Japanese Red Army members initiated in North Korea after being linked to a jet hijacking in 1970.

Tom Casey, a US State Department spokesperson, said US government departments were working on a process to prepare for any eventual removal of North Korea from the terror list.

"I know there have been discussions about this," said Casey, though he declined to elaborate in detail. "Obviously, they involve a variety of different government agencies," he said.

Casey said that there were a series of legal standards, both for getting on and off the US terror list, adding that US laws and regulations had to be fully met before Pyongyang was removed from the list.

He hinted that any mechanisms or timing for such removal could be discussed under a six-nation meeting among nuclear envoys expected this month in Beijing.

North Korean state media reported on Monday that the United States had agreed to strike Pyongyang from its blacklist of states that sponsor terrorism during talks in Geneva with the Pyongyang negotiator Kim Kye Gwan.

This claim was swiftly denied by the US aide, Hill said on Tuesday that a delisting depends on further steps towards denuclearization. AFP

Sept.11 memorial shows WTC pieces

NEW YORK — VISITORS to the New York City memorial for the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks will see two huge pieces of the World Trade Center's original steel facade inside a glass-walled pavilion that leads them to the museum.

Scores drawings released on Tuesday by the National Sept. 11 Memorial & Museum, the columns — each up to 50 feet (15 meters) high — that stood near the base of the twin towers rise next to a stairway that leads visitors down to the museum.

Museum officials are still considering what other artifacts to showcase at the Sept. 11 memorial and where to put them. The site's original plan called for iconic artifacts from the towers to be displayed aboveground. A group of Sept. 11 victims' family members had lobbied for years to have pieces of the steel facade at street level.

The columns are among more than 1,000 pieces of steel from the fallen towers in storage at a hangar at John F. Kennedy International Airport. AP

'Chemical Ali' gets death penalty

BAGHDAD — IRAQ'S TOP COURT said on Tuesday it has confirmed the death sentence on "Chemical Ali" for using poison gas against ethnic Kurds, was the convicted Iraqi dictator's most notorious henchman. The man his defense minister and Thirty was armed former deputy chief of operations.

The three were sentenced to death on June 24 after being found responsible for the slaughter of thousands of Kurds in the so-called Anfal campaign of 1988.

An estimated 182,000 Kurds were killed and 4,000 villages wiped out in the brutal campaign of bombings mass deportations and gas attacks.

"Thousands of people were killed, displaced and disappeared," Iraqi High Tribunal chief judge Mohammed al-Oreibi al-Khalifah said after he had passed sentence in June.

"They were civilians with no weapons and nothing to do with war," Majid, 46, was the last of the six defendants to learn his fate in the Anfal case — the second trial of former Saddam cohorts on charges of crimes against humanity since the fall of the Sunni regime in 2003. AFP

The WORLD

Editor Lorenzo B. Gatoo

Germany, Denmark foil terror plots

3 arrested for plotting attacks on Frankfurt airport, US base

BERLIN—GERMAN AUTHORITIES SAID ON Wednesday they had arrested three suspected Islamic terrorists for allegedly planning attacks on Frankfurt International Airport, one of Europe's busiest, along with nearby Ramstein Air Base, a key US and Nato military hub.

Prosecutors said they had arrested three suspected members of "an Islamic-motivated terrorist organization," but gave no further details. German Defense Minister Franz Josef Jung told ARD broadcaster the three men were suspected of targeting the airport and base.

"There was no imminent threat," Jung said, but declined to elaborate. The Sudwestrundfunk public broadcaster said two of the suspects had German citizenship while the third was Moroccan.

Prosecutors in Karlsruhe said the arrests took place on Tuesday afternoon, and that police had also carried out searches across the country. The suspects are to be brought before a judge later Wednesday.

Germans and US officials have long feared the possibility of a major attack, and security measures have been increased.

Brig. Capt. Jeff Sroufe, spokesperson for the US military's European Command in Stuttgart said German authorities had conducted three searches during the alleged plot, but had no further information.

"We extend our gratitude to the many for their efforts in protecting us," Sroufe said.

The leading Der Spiegel weekly said in its online edition that the group has been under observation by German authorities for many months and all three men are considered radical Islamists with contacts to terror cells abroad.

Authorities decided to move in on the group after they were observed moving a stock of detonators, and also found that they were in possession of explosive chemicals, Spiegel said.

Germany, which did not send troops to Iraq, has largely been spared terrorist attacks like the twin rail subway bombings in Madrid and London—although its involvement in the struggle to stabilize Afghanistan against Islamic insurgents has led to fears it might be targeted.

In July 2006 two gas bombs were placed on commuter trains but did not explode, and officials said that attack was motivated by anger over cartoons portraying the Prophet Muhammad in a Danish newspaper. Several suspects are on trial in Lebanon, and a Lebanese man has been charged in connection.

Chancellor Angela Merkel said in an interview released on Wednesday that Germans troops would remain in Afghanistan for several more years, despite recent setbacks in the region.

"It's with great regret that we're having to do this," Merkel told N-TV television.

Magnus Ranstorp, at the Swedish Defense Research Agency, said while Germany's mission in Afghanistan could be a motive for a terrorist attack, a flood of other factors could also play in.

"It could be discussed, with Germany, as even western foreign war as a whole. It's really not that easy as to say that this (Afghanistan) would be the reason for it."

Opened in 1953, Ramstein is one of the best-known US Air Force bases worldwide because it serves as a major conduit for US troops and materiel moving in and out of Europe, Asia and the Middle East. It is a key transit point for injured soldiers being flown home from Iraq and Afghanistan who are flown there to be taken to the nearby military hospital in Landstuhl.

Besides US personnel, Canadians, Germans, British, French, Belgian, Czech, Norwegian, Dutch and Danish forces are also located there.

Frankfurt International Airport is Europe's third busiest airport, handling hundreds of inbound and outbound flights to and from the Americas, Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Europe. In July, a record 5.2 million passengers arrived or departed from the airport, a new record. In 2006, more than 52.2 million passengers came through the airport, which is also a major cargo hub. AP

GERMANY Defense Minister Peter Struck, left, and Governor of German federal state Rhineland-Palatinate Kurt Beck, right, are seen during their visit at the US Airbase in Ramstein, southern Germany, in this file photo.

8 suspects nabbed in Denmark

COPENHAGEN—DANISH police said on Tuesday they had averted a terrorist attack with the arrest overnight of eight men allegedly linked to al-Qaeda and in possession of explosives.

The director general of the Danish intelligence service PET, Jakob Scharf, said the arrests near Copenhagen had "prevented a terrorist attack." "We would describe the main suspects as militant Islamists with international contacts, including leading members of al-Qaeda," Scharf told a press conference.

Scharf would not disclose any information about the possible target of the planned attack, but said there was "no direct link" to Denmark's military involvement in Iraq or Afghanistan.

There was no connection either to the wave of protests caused by cartoons that were printed in a Danish newspaper in September 2005 and sparked angry Muslim protests around the world, he said.

PET said the eight were "suspected of preparing a terrorist act with the use of explosives."

Police raided 11 homes in the early hours of Tuesday, after an investigation that had been underway for several months and during which PET cooperated with foreign intelligence agencies. AFP

Woman 'cured' by Mother Teresa lives in poverty

BANGLADESH, INDIA—AN ILLiterate woman whose claimed miracle cure from cancer led to Mother Teresa being named to sainthood lives in cramped, filthy corner of Bangladesh capital with a life of misery.

The angry comments came as the Missionaries of Charity, the order founded by the Albanian-born nun in the eastern Indian metropolis of Calcutta in 1950, prepared to mark Wednesday's 10th anniversary of the heroine's death.

"I will not go to any church," 40-year-old Monica Besra told AFP squatting on the floor of her thatched and mud house in Bangladesh village 300 kilometers from the eastern city of Calcutta, where Mother Teresa worked.

"I will remember Mother Teresa as an ill-fed death anniversary at which children and bandhood," the added.

It was Besra's alleged miracle cure from a "tumor" tumor on Sept. 6, 1998—a year after the nun's death—that led to the Vatican declaring the way for Mother Teresa's beatification in October 2003.

Initially, the journey from death to beatification is established rules decades: it not complete in the Catholic Church, which has 1.1 billion followers worldwide.

Besra had been hospitalized by nuns of the Missionaries of Charity before the beatification of Mother Teresa," Besra said.

"They made a lot of promises to me and assured me of financial help for my livelihood and my children's education," she claimed, adding that she was also escorted to the Vatican for the beatification ceremony.

"After that, they forgot me," said Besra, now swelling up in her eyes.

Philip, the small piece of family land mortgaged to a village moneylender while her husband was away looking for work, fetch and she is struggling to survive.

"I am now living in poverty. My husband is sick. My children have stopped going to school as I have no money. I have to work in the fields to feed my husband and her children," said Besra, clad in worn yellow cotton.

Thousands pay homage to Mother Teresa

CALCUTTA—THOUSANDS of devotees thronged to the headquarters of the Missionaries of Charity in the Indian city of Calcutta on Wednesday to offer prayers for Mother Teresa on the 10th anniversary of her death.

The doors of Mother House, where the ethnic Albanian nun lived and died, were thrown open at 5 a.m. and hundreds of nuns distributed Holy Communion to the city residents.

Holding candles, they knelt before Mother Teresa's tomb in one of the upstairs big halls of the building and prayed in nun and in Bengali and other languages from Indian-style cots for position to faith, control and abortion.

Calcutta was also spiritual as a pit of misery and suffering, with its original, quiet way in long for many of institutional and women creativity.

Mother Teresa made Calcutta her home and opened several homes, including one for those who were old and dying and the other for destitute children.

Archbishop of Calcutta, Lucas Sirkar, led a special Mass where rich and poor sat together in prayer.

As people sang hymns, Sister Nirmala, the superior general of the order, held her palms together, occasionally moved as followers.

"Mother helped me get a job and I was able to educate my children. But now I am unemployed and my children have dropped out of school," she said.

Besra's husband, Lucas Murmu, is also unemployed and is suffering from tuberculosis.

"I have no money to buy medicines for him," she said.

Besra's claim that she was cured of cancer by Mother Teresa was investigated by a medical board of doctors in Calcutta before the Vatican declared the nun "blessed" in October 2003.

Besra's case was the second miracle attributed to Mother Teresa. The first was the healing of a Brazilian man with a brain tumor.

Besra's claim was initially rejected by the Vatican's medical experts, but was approved by a panel of theologians and then by a committee of cardinals and bishops before being endorsed by Pope John Paul II.

Besra's case was investigated by Father Brian Kolodiejchuk, the postulator of Mother Teresa's cause for sainthood, who said the nun had appeared to Besra in a dream and told her to rub a medallion on the tumor.

Besra said she had been told by the nuns that she was cured of cancer after she had rubbed the medallion on her stomach. AFP

MISSIONARIES of Charity nuns light candles on the tomb of Mother Teresa, the founder of the order, on her 10th death anniversary (all which was observed as "Happy Feast Day" in Calcutta, India, on Wednesday, Sept. 5.

Mattel makes 3rd Chinese toys recall

BEIJING—TOYMAKER MATtel Inc. on Tuesday announced a third recall of Chinese-made toys, saying it would take back more than 800,000 units globally that contain "impermissible" levels of lead.

In total, 512,000 US toys and 222,000 outside the United States are being recalled. The toys were shipped between Aug. 1, 2006, and July 31, 2007, the company said.

The latest recall involves three Fisher-Price toy models and eight Barbie-brand playsets. Six Barbie-doll sets are included.

Mattel instructs people in go to its website (www.service.mattel.com) to establish whether they own an affected toy. After they fill out a form and send back the affected parts, Mattel will mail them replacement and bonus parts.

The recall came out of Mattel's investigation of its toys manufactured by vendors in China. In the last few weeks, the company already had announced two recalls of millions of Chinese toys due to a broader assessment of lead paint and other dangers.

A spate of toy recalls has sparked concern over the quality of products made in China. The US House of Representatives' subcommittee on commerce, trade and consumer protection is to hold a hearing Thursday on how to protect US children from imported products containing lead paint.

Lead paint has been linked to health problems in children, including brain damage.

Mattel chief executive Robert Eckert said he could not guarantee there would be no further toy recalls, but stressed that the testing of products is premised after the first major recall on Aug. 1 was now complete.

"You can never say never, that there won't be more (recalls)," said Eckert in a telephone interview on Tuesday. Reuters

Dinosaurs wiped out by asteroid breakup

PARIS—THE EXTINCTION OF the dinosaurs 65 million years ago can be traced to a collision between two massive rocks in the asteroid belt nearly 100 million years earlier, scientists report in Paris.

The month down a great show of rock and Earth's path, events ally coming the dinosaur-changing impact that ended the reign of the dinosaurs and enabled the rise of mammals—including, eventually, us.

Other asteroid fragments smashed into the Moon, Venus and Mars, pocking their faces with mighty craters, the UK and Czech researchers believe.

Mining drills in lake sound, pipe-smoking and surface observers, the trio carried out a computer simulation of the jostling among orbital rubble left from the building of the solar system.

The results were guided by an intriguing clue—a large asteroid called 2298 Baptistina, which shares the same orbital track as a group of smaller rocks.

Turning the clock's result, the researchers found that the Baptistina-mass rock only broke up as they were also remnants of a giant parent asteroid, around 170 kilometers across, that once cruised the innermost region of the asteroid belt.

Around 160 million years ago—the first bit in a range of 146,150 million years—the Baptistina was smacked by another giant some 60 km across.

From this countless collisions rose a huge chance of rocks, including 300 bodies larger than 10 km and 160,000 bodies larger than 1 km. AFP

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SPORTS

Editor Teddyboy S. Philmodera Assistant Editor Francis T. Ji Delos

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Eagles battle Maroons

THE ATENEO BLUE EAGLES will be keeping this in mind when they take on the languishing University of the Philippines Maroons today in the UAAP men's basketball competition at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

And Ateneo coach Norman Black insisted that the 2 p.m. match will be no setpiece for the Eagles' superly awaited showdown against rival La Salle Green Archers on Sunday.

"It's a game," said Black. "Like Adamson's, they have nothing to lose and they gave up a difficult time. UP will be the same thing if we don't come and play. It's important that we establish a certain level of play."

A victory will secure the Eagles at least a playoff for a Final Four berth.

BASES /A24

ADAMSON (6-3)		
GE	81	1
La Salle	9	0
Ateneo	7	1
ADU	7	1
NU	6	1
UE	4	3
Adamson	3	6
UP	0	10

GAMES TODAY (Araneta Coliseum)
1 p.m.—Adamson vs UP
4 p.m.—Ateneo vs La Salle

HAIRLOSS EXPERTS IN AMERICA REVEAL FRIGHTENING FACTS

Men Going Bald Lose One Hair Every 15 Minutes!

Recent research from top trichologists in the U.S.A. reveals that the rate of a man's hairloss can reach about 25,000 hairs a year on a baldness-prone head. That means, when receding and thinning are at their peak, a man on his way to baldness is losing one hair approximately every fifteen minutes!

As most men prior to experiencing any hairloss have a total scalp count of 100,000 to 150,000 hairs or more, a mere four disappearing every hour don't get noticed - until it's too late. Blessed on these figures it's easy to see how it takes only 3-5 years for a 30-year old man to be bald by the time he's 34 - if he does nothing about it.

Why is it that so many men let themselves go bald - when there's enough time at the beginning of the hairloss process to get expert advice and the right technological treatments? It seems there are a number of reasons, the main one being unawareness of what is available at professional hair-and-scalp care centres. The best known is Svenson, which has been in the business of controlling hairloss for over twenty-five years across Asia and around the world. Svenson is where people go when they don't want to go bald.

If it really disturbs you that you're losing one hair every fifteen minutes, it makes a lot of sense to call Svenson for an appointment. It costs nothing to have a qualified trichologist analyze your hair and scalp. You'll learn the cause of your hairloss and what the right treatments can do. And you'll discover how your hair and scalp can be optimized for maximum growth potential.

Don't wait another 15 minutes and one more hair, call Svenson now for a no-cost consultation today. Telephone 892-4247/ 234-0851 (Cebu).

Without treatment this man will likely be totally bald in just 2-3 years.

BRILLIANT: Kevin Durant, and the Ateneo Blue Eagles hope to win the championship that matured with a win over Jaja Cuan and the UST Tigers.

Toyota Tamaraw FX GL

Two young prospects in Pacman undercard

GEN. SANTOS CITY—TWO topnotch prospects from North Cotabato will be seeing action in the undercard of the Oct. 6 rematch between Filipino boxing superstar Manny Pacquiao and Miguel Antonio Barrera in Las Vegas.

"I promise to put on a show these two boxers in the card," said Pacquiao.

"When I fight Barrera, they will also be fighting in the undercard."

The boxers are unbeaten prospects Glenn Gonzales and Jonely Maroan.

Gonzales (6-0, 4 KOs) is an exciting featherweight boxer whose fight style has been likened to that of Pacquiao.

Maroan (10-0-1, 8 KOs) is a super bantamweight boxer who fans like a snake and has skills honed by a solid amateur background.

"These two fighters benefited a lot from the training program brought in by Coffee coach Eddie Garcia," said Davao Gensan vice governor Manny Pinol.

Gonzales and Maroan have been training the last two weeks in Cebu. And on Saturday, September 8, Gonzales will be seeing action in the undercard of the Oct. 6 rematch between Filipino boxing superstar Manny Pacquiao and Miguel Antonio Barrera in Las Vegas.

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Ford
Make Every Day Exciting

Milo elims to Naga City this Sunday

AFTER SORTIES THROUGH THE VISAYAS, the 31st Ronnie Milo Marathon climbs its course to Luzon in the third regional stop on the first swap on Sunday in Naga City hosted by Mayor Jesse M. Robredo.

KERWAY Sison, the 1997 Milo Marathon champion, joined the 21 K race of the 31st National Milo Marathon Balik ng Iar Sunday Saiza. IT placed 9th with a time of 1:23:03.

The Naga City leg is the 21th leg in this year's 24-leg Milo Marathon nationwide elimination run, held in partnership with Boysen Pick Hotel Manila, Adidas, and the Department of Tourism. The race is one of the highlights of the feast of Our Lady of Peñafrancia.

The top three finishers in the men's and women's divisions of the 21K elimination run will received P10,000,00,000, and P4,000) respectively, plus trophies and will advance to the 42K end-round finals slated on Nov. 10 in Subic Quirino Grandstand.

"I expect an exciting race because top runners in the region are coming in this for the top prizes and the opportunity to compete in the 42 kilometers Milo nationwide finals" said AVP for Milo Sports Eni Goc-Ong.

The Nueva elimination runs, which visited Tagbilaran, Tacloban, Cebu, Iloilo, Legazpi, Roxas City, and Iloilo last September attracted 42,333 runners, including 5,000 runners coming from the six provinces comprising the Bicol Region are expected to join the starting gun at Plaza Quezon at 6 a.m. to be fired off by Robredo.

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MARK Fernando (left) and Jamil Abdulcarimen to pace the grueling eliminations for the Philippine team.

Ababa, Fernando cop RP golf slots

By Mesang R. Casilio

ILIGAN, CANTILAN—RECEIVING 12 long and overlapped assisted the process, rural-style Jamil Abdulcarim spoke mixed and an expedient evening day at The Ritzton's Lanao layout to take a place of the final with two rounds left in the SEAP National Qualifiers.

The 23-year-old Abdulcarim, the first winner of the National Golfers' Open, fired a two-over-par 71 to pull even with fellow Galaxian Joel Mark Fernando as they all but put a lock on two of six RP Team slots being contested.

Fernando, one of the foremost products of the MCO program being run by the Philippine Amateur Golf Development Foundation of Tommy Manotoc, stood silent despite a 74 mainly caused by two triple bogeys on a humid day.

The frontrunners have shouted 209 for 6-0-9 totaling regulation for and two days of the marathon eliminations.

Also virtually assured of spikes in the RP team taking part in three international tournaments this year was Ferdinand Asares, who fired a 75 to tie in solo third at 211.

Anthony Fernando, Mark's cousin who held the lead in the first two rounds at the Couples course last week, will couldn't check his slide, turning in a fourth-straight over-par—a 75—to tie fourth at 410.

The team for the last two slots is too close interesting, with amateur ace Jay Bayron will trying to regain down form and Michael Bilad, the big hitter Gainer between medal runners-up is located hustle.

Bilad shared the day's best round with Abdus and pulled even with Bayron, who shot a 75, at 419, last on strokes better than the seventh-running Cesar Rondez, who fired a 73 to stay alive.

Asiad champ Valle enters SMC 10-ball

VALLE

GOMEZ

CAMP VALLE THE 1998 Asian Games 9-ball doubles gold medalist and Bohol native Gomez, the 2007 Runway Reside of Semifinalists 9-ball winner, head the cast to the Hard San Miguel Corporation (SMC) Seventh Division 10-ball event starting on Sept. 19 at the Ribbed-seas/Metro Walk in Dong City.

The 30-year-old Valle will be teaming up with either Jessie Olympio or Michael Feliciano in the threeday event slotted P140,000 to the winning one.

"I'm already preparing hard for this tournament," said Valle in Filipino.

Gomez, 28, will be partnered by either Cesar Basio or Allie Tolentino.

"Skill is of the utmost in 10-ball, unlike the 9-ball where there's a bit of luck," said Gomez, who like Valle is a member of the Bagio precision skills.

The pair of Antonio Gabica, and Benjamin Dando, the 2006 Sydney World Amateur quarterfinalist, also signified their intention to play.

Other entries include the pair of 2007 Master Pro tour 9-ball champion Jovin Bautista and former amateur ace Benjie Gaserna and Region Billiard Hobby stalwarts Jay Vera Gomez and Ricky Lucas.

For details, call Jay Santos at 09157668000, Valle 09193050007 and Ronnie Dizon at 09165602779.

Marlon Bernardino, Lloyd Bautista

Rivilla still MPLFA head

RIVILLA

HENDERSON/MAR Cathy Rivilla was unanimously re-elected to a two-year term to preside over the Mandaue, Pantabangan and Lapu-Lapu Football Association during its general assembly meeting at the Sphere Gym in Mandaue-Jose City last weekend.

Also elected to the MPLFA board were Jimmy Nacera, Alfred Reyes, Marc Duarte, Flo Sivan, Cyril Gallego, Ed Lumbres and Chito Manuel, who will also serve for two years.

Following her reelection and based on the MPLFA constitution and by-laws, Rivilla appointed Manuel as vice president. Reyes, general secretary; Nivas, assistant general secretary; and Duarte, treasurer.

Pavilla, overseen manager of the national women's team, is also an official of the Philippine National Football Federation.

The 37-year-old Rivilla is one of two Filipino women match commissioners—the other being former Philippine Olympic Committee president Cindy Bautista—accredited by the International Football Federation or FIFA.

Since 22 clubs, the MPLFA has grown to over 30 clubs.

The MPLFA girls squad won last year's Regional Under-17 tournament.

Spring Oil dribblers trounce Vietnamese

MALABON City Mayor Tito Oreta gets set to toss the ball before the Philippine Spring Cooking Oil-Vietnam game while Spring team owner and MBC president Tai Pardilla looks on.

SPRING COOKING OIL BOUnd the visiting Vietnam national basketball team, 93-71, Tuesday in a goodwill game at the Malabon Sports Complex.

The Cooking Oil Masters of MBC president Nathaniel "Tai" Pardilla raced to a 35-23 lead at the end of the first quarter and never looked back as veterans Elmo Thompson and Larry Rodriguez rolled 20-points each.

The Vietnamese, coached by former Spring mentor Ricky Mega-Ramos, still grouped for first to they stepped up their preparation for the Southeast Asian Games set for December in Thailand.

Malabon City Mayor Tito Oreta made the ceremonial toss and then came out to watch the home team pummel the visitors from start to finish.

But Tyne Rang led the Vietnamese with 12 points while Tyne Boon Binh, Nguyen and Nguyen Ivan Tuk added 11 each.

"I'm happy with the boys' (Spring) showing," said Pardilla, who is helping bankroll the Spring/PBBC Select-Iloilo's trip to Taiwan next month.

The scores

MALABON SPRING 93—Thompson 20, Rodriguez 20, Escudero 14, De Guzman 11, Dagan 9, Kalaw 4, Tapawan 4, Gamot 3, Villoria 3, Jugo 2, Apalisok 2

VIETNAM 71—Ho Ci, Quyen 10, Tuan 10, Vinh 8, Binh 8, Phuoc 8, Nghiep 4, Tai 4, Ramon Ci, Le 2)

Scores: 35-23, 55-45, 72-63, 93-71

SPORTSWATCH

KidzHoops All-Sundays tourney set

THE ALL-ISLAND BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT FOR KIDS' LEVELING the 6 years old. And the Corridor Gym along Shaw Boulevard in Mandaluyong City at 2 p.m. Registration opens at 1 p.m. The tournament proper starts back 30 at the MM Gym. The KidzHoops league runs last Sunday grass divisions, the 10 years, 12 under and 14 under. Boys and girls aged 8 to 14 are encouraged to join. The kids are assured of four league games and one exhibition game. For inquiries, logon to www.kidzhoops.com or call 27 59838.

HOLE-IN-ONE. Hermie Bird Sarte (ctr) of the Royal Obra Golf Club recently made an ace on the 174-yard hole No. 4 of Valley's South course using a 3 wood. With him are PCI Barrera, Joe Ilyana and Jose Baron.

First stag derby at Roligon today

ROLIGON HILLS CONDOMINIUM COMPLEX TODAY HOSTS THE 2007 CONDOMINIUM soccer outside today via the Stag Festival at Roligon Derby. The 2-stag elimination round starts at 4 p.m. Round two starts on Saturday while the championship round takes place on Monday. Competitors include Serbian Ms. Bibiana Cuadra, Pia Cabrera, Pinky Pelaya, Jeraic Ig and Raymond Burgos.

SJC Anniversary derby set Sept. 10

THE NUMBER OF CONFIRMED ENTRIES BALLOONED TO 440 AS OF YESterday in connection with the SJC anniversary 6-stag derby valued Sept. 10, 12 and 13 at San Juan Stadium. The overall daughter is guaranteed prize of P2 million. Host and SJC owner Rodolfo Pimentel suggest the derby has of P1,000. Meanwhile, the SJC Cockers Club 6-stag derby swings starts on Saturday.

CLINKERS. Pride and joy are etched on the faces of the winners of the Cal-Porta Responsible Series walk clinking competition held Aug. 1 for the Power Kingpin, Silver City, Pasig. The Cali Silver Cup series for the champion team while individual medals were awarded.

Clyde and Ezy, Mark win

CLYDE AND EZY OF FMF CHIEF OFFICER Cyrus Rivo and Mark of Harry Andrew teamed back their respective rivals start of the 2007 FMF Challenge Cup Tuesday at the Reyes gym in Mandaluyong.

Showing their tender, Clyde and Ezy stopped Jethro of FP Enzo Collins, 9-7, to lead the 8:30-10:00 program for the event supported by Beyond Blackness Fire Tooling Corporation and organized by Mitra Basketball cadre Commissioner Nito Fernandez.

Not to be outdone, Mark beat Apostolito Dee of Dennis Abarca in overtime, 10-52, while Gigi Mocorrao's Fabolled edged Londres Carolino of Bola Magandang, 68-63.

The event's opening was graced by TV personalities led by Radio Star Quinto, Frances Pacillan and 98.5 star Atlanta Mohammad.

The PCC three classics highlighted the opening with a breathtaking performance by Marco Polo Ong, retired.

Games are held every Tuesday and Friday at the Reyes gym.

Metro Basketball is the leading organizer of corporate basketball. For details, call 4802000 or text 09179946466.

RP bets deliver Asian karting medals

THE JET RACING TEAM I DELIVERED FOR the Philippines in the third leg of the 2007 Asian Karting Open Championship recently at the Festival Entertainment Circuit in Bogor, Indonesia.

The Filipinos bagged three titles, a runner-up and a third place finish.

Team captain Jon Beatrez, a Grade 7 student of Globe School, powered Jet Racing's 4-for-4 to the top spot in the ROK Junior and the Formula 125 Junior events against foreign rivals this February and Senior driver of Indonesia Abdullah Gilbert of Malaysia.

JEVI Beatrez (R) and Vincent John Salva on the way to squadron fanfare.

Beatrez, 14, cruised the event with a 1-2-1 finish in the Junior division while Vincent John Salva, 13, finished 2-1-2 in the Junior division.

Jet Racing, backed by Mega Bonanza Corp., Heroyale Inc. of SM companies, Wally Order of Shell, Outlaw Systems Corp., Indochina and Bella Corp., is the Cadet 60 class. Mejdar Salva made it a 1-2 finish for the Philippines.

Vincent John Salva, the current ROK Junior pacesetter of the local series, took third place in the Formula 125 Junior class and fourth in the ROK Junior division.

Another Jet Racing member, Franco Reyes, managed to gain seventh place in the 14-man Mini ROK race.

RACING FORM
BY TOP CHOICE
Race 1—(No—Name (2) Dream Camp (3) Mihon Drive (4)
Race 2—(10)(No—Ga- (2) Que (3) Mini Mariano (4) Pure Bonanza (5) Grand (6) Montenegro (5)
Race 3—(No—Raquel Jaquez (2) Mini Rico- Nuno (3) Mini Land (4)
Race 4—(No) Nancy Mae Bonifacio (2) Cool Mariano (3) Cindy's Dream (4) Tuazon Sister (5)
Race 5—(10)(No—Joseph of Jessica (2) Justine Mae Bonifacio (3) Sophy Pop (4)
Race 6—(No—Jeremiah Jacob (2) Big Spender (3) Mighty Race (4) Royal Five (5)
Race 7—(No—(No)Jacob Jacob (2) Lord Bill (3) Mighty Race (4) Royal Five (5)
Race 8—(No—(No)(No)—Jocelyn (2) Lord Bill (3) Galaxy Spender (4) Sony Prince (5) Jeffrey Boy (6) Mini Land)

Influential Marho supports Lim's anti-bookie campaign

MANILA MAYOR ALFREDO LIM'S RElentless drive against illegal bookies in local horse racing got a boost recently as top officials of the Metropolitan Association of Race Horse Owners Inc. (Marho) expressed their all-out support to the renewed campaign against the illegal betting cards.

In a recent dialog held at Manila City Hall, Marho leaders led by Mayor and Philippine Racehorse Breeders Association Inc. (Phrabi) president Ambrosio Padilla and other Marho officials thanked Lim for heeding the anti-bookie clarion in Manila, instead merely sounding it as noticeable praise for the local horse racing industry.

"We would like to express our appreciation to Mayor Lim for intensifying the campaign against the illegal bookies, coming in the form of a huge drop in registered horse racing rates over the past month," said Marho.

Last week, Lim ordered the renewed crackdown on illegal bookies in Manila.

Kobe back in a flash this time

IN HUDDLE

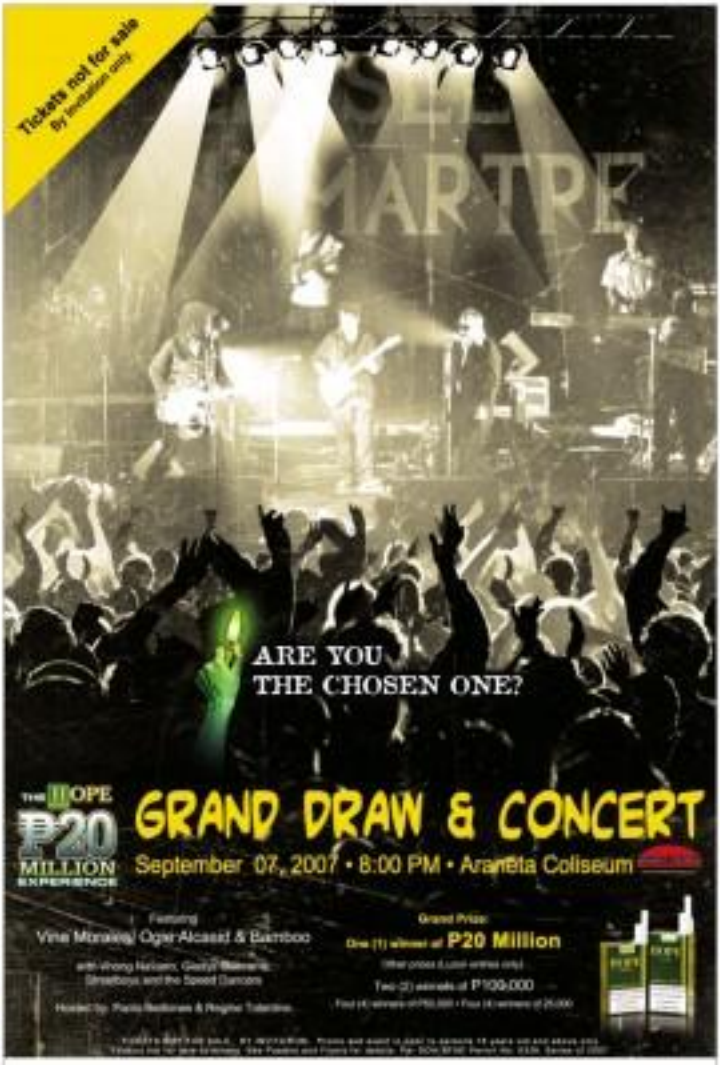
Alyssb Cadiz

PSC favors revival of PNG

By Jose Rivera

MANILA

AMA, UM dispute 2nd title slot today



Sportswriter Pasco dies at 26

PASCO

Government Warning:
Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health.

SPORTS

Rafa, Serena head for exits

Henin, Ferrer send home US Open fan favorites

SERENA: Williams feels she has to figure out a way to beat Justine Henin. AFP

NEW YORK—SCRAP that Venus vs Serena matchup at the US Open. Cancel Rafa vs Roger too.

The tournament took a sharp turn Tuesday—and early Wednesday—when a pair of fan favorites, at Flushing Meadows, got knocked out.

First, it was Serena Williams. Top-ranked Justine Henin beat her for third straight time in a Grand Slam quarterfinal, making it look easy at the end (6-3, 6-1) when Serena double-faulted to hand Henin match point.

"I got to go back and study and figure out how to beat her. That's it. Bottom line," Williams said.

Next up for Henin might be Serena's sister Venus. Williams plays No. 5 Jelena Jankovic in the quarters Wednesday, and the winner gets Henin in the semis.

Henin does not need to say who she'd prefer to play: she's 1-7 against Venus, 7-0 against Jankovic.

"Every match is a final for me now," Henin said. "If I have to play Venus, it will be a good challenge for me to play both sisters in the same tournament."

A lot of tennis fans were looking forward to seeing Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer meet in a third straight Grand Slam final. That won't happen now.... Hele-needed David Ferrer upset the second-seeded Nadal, 6-7 (3), 6-4, 7-6 (4), 6-2, in a 4 hours-4 min match that ended at 1:30 a.m.

"Sure there is disappointment for me, but that is tennis," Nadal said.

The former Jock at Adrian Adv finish-ed, was still inside his office (which) late that added long at 1:58 a.m. It came close to the latest ending at the US Open—back in 1995, Mats Wilander defeated off Michael Stich at 2:26 a.m.

It capped a day that also saw a player lose a point when a ball fell out of his pocket, another complain about noises over TV screens and one of the oldest outfits in Open history.

Trying for his fourth straight Open title, Federer vies to play No. 3 Andy Roddick on Wednesday night.

Earlier Tuesday, No. 4 Henin-Hardenne smashed the Open quarterfinals for the first time by beating No. 23 Anna Chakvetadze, 7-5, 7-5 (2), 6-7 (6), 6-1.

After his win, Federer talked about the Nadal-Federer history.

"Tennis needs this rivalry," he said. "But you like other head, the people are not paying attention to the other players. You

MADAI: Conquered AFP/AFP

one of those players in that smaller group behind which is trying to break that. Break it through and make that group of two a little bit bigger."

Monaco was serving to the third-set tiebreaker when the ball fell out of his pocket to cost of a fault dipped out. It was the second time in the match that happened, nationwide calls using him the point. AP

Mickelson backs out of BMW golf championship

LEMONT, ILLINOIS—PHIL MICKELSON withdrew Tuesday from the BMW Championship, one day after threatening not to play over a condition he had with PGA Tour commissioner Tim Finchem over issue he wouldn't explain.

"The decision was not an easy one to make, and in no way is meant to disrespect to the tour or 'sending a message' to anyone," Mickelson said in a statement. "I've talked for weeks about needing to find a balance between my game, my business affairs and my family, and it is the time for me to take some time off."

Mickelson was playing a corporate outing with sponsor Bearing Point in the Chicago area and could not immediately reached for comment.

If all the best players are going to win, pass together in three (PGA Tour Playoff), it looks as though it wasn't happen until the fourth and final event next week at the Tour Championship.

Tiger Woods skipped the first week in The Barclays, saying his body and mind needed a break from back-to-back events at a World Golf Championship and the PGA Tour Championship. Ernie Els and Jose Maria Olazabal skipped last week at the Deutsche Bank Championship.

Mickelson had planned to miss the third event, and returning to Boston while paired with Woods in the background gave him a platform to air some of his complaints. Without prompting, he mentioned NBC Sports' effort his two-shot victory that he had made several suggestions to Windows that were not acted upon. AP

France trips Italy; Spain, Greece also triumph

MADRID, SPAIN—TONY PARKER POURED in 36 points Tuesday and Group B leader France beat Italy, 89-82, handing the Olympic runner-up its second loss at the European Championship.

At Granada, Andrei Kirilenko heaved a three-pointer from half-court to force overtime, but France prevailed, 68-67. Also in Group A, Russia won its second straight, drubbing Lithuania on Vasilios Karal, 88-56.

Lithuania moved into the second round with a 95-75 win over Group C rival Czech Republic 13-21 before Germany (2-0) routed Turkey 89-63, 79-49, behind 24 points from Dirk Nowitzki.

Pau Gasol had 26 points and nine rebounds to world champion Spain over Latvia, 91-77, in Sevilla, where Croatia (1-1) beat Poland 80-63, 90-66, in another Group B game.

In the other Group D match, Slovenia (2-0) edged Serbia, 93-92 win over Poland.

At Almeria, Parker scored 13 of France's first 17 points and Lee Ribas rallied from a 7-0 deficit to get within three to start the second quarter. But as Parker and Penaroc quieted, Italy build its biggest lead of the game, 33-26.

After cutting the deficit to five by intermission, France opened the second half with a 9-0 run to take its first lead, 37-36. Ranks to two-Parker free throws after Andrea Crosetto was treated a technical foul for shunning the ball into the face of Nicolas Batum.

Parker scored France's next 10 points to give it a 47-41 advantage that Italy closed to 51-47 with the San Antonio Spurs guard hitting the final ten minutes of the third quarter on the bench.

Italy scored six straight to start the fourth, including the lead, which it traded back and forth until Tony Kukoc hit a three-pointer with seven minutes remaining to put France ahead for good, 81-68. AP

Nine years later, Kobe goes from star to super

By Frances T.I. Ochoa

TOWARD THE END OF A PRESS conference that had the first Lakers media training session (an hour) Kobe Bryant nodded his head slightly to the right to ponder a question. Was different was the Kobe Bryant who wielded the scissor years ago from the Kobe Bryant who was holding questions inside a (with Mahal) hotel bedroom yesterday?

A well-timed, split second, PR-coordinated pause followed. Just enough for the whir of video recorders and the drone of euphoria-ing flashbulbs to capture the profile of the 6-foot-6 basketball superstar in serious contemplation.

"I had to find him. Man," he said. The predictable sound of laughter followed.

Actually, if you were more than just telling

him for the press conference.

Maybe from a player of lesser stature, the crowd or the Makati Shangri-La ballroom would have suspected into a rush. But this was Kobe Bryant, the one time large swan, clothed-tanned-Gunz-bite player.

He was just Michael Jordan: "The thing that I love me most is the athletic-ism."

He was just Charles Barkley: "The important thing to remember is that other people talk about role models, we assume that these role models must be perfect. But nobody is perfect. The definition of a role model should be someone we look to from, 9th look at the number three who needs to make and listens from them, not duplicate them."

And he was just Oprah: "I think that we should live every day like it's the last and enjoy the moment. As a kid, it seems like you'll live forever. But I think kids should learn to enjoy every moment."

And he was also a little of Steve Carey. When asked what constituted a diet program that has seen him lose 20 pounds, he quipped: "Gone." And asked by a journalist, whose son skipped school to see him, what part of him was worthy of consideration by young children all over the world, he said: "Sportsman dishing advice? " a self-deprecating comment that obliged his decision to skip college and jump to the pros from the high school playgrounds.

And when asked which

players he would surround himself with if he was the LA Lakers owner, he replied: "You mean according I was Bill Gates? The whole of Brian DSA."

But most of all, he was all Kobe Bryant. The flamboyant, high-leaping, silky-shooting, chest-first sub-queen-mess-Lamy superstar who wrangled himself out of a hopeless case by abandoning basketball until he perfected it, on all he became the ultra-talented racing-man who could carry an entire crushed franchise on his shoulders.

Also of the players he has literature pointed out by plunging into a meteoric-caliber regimen he refers to as the "Michelet."

"Because if you go through it, there's a chance you will block out," he explained.

It's a regimen he uses set in share with young rapper yesterday at the Philippine Arena, right after doing chunky reads at The Fort.

"Basketball is such a fun sport and to get the most out of it, the key is studying hard," he said.

Next up for Bryant is a weekend stint with Team USA, where he leads a bunch of pride-pitched rapers out to unleash the United States as the Olympic delegation to Beijing in 2008.

"We put a lot of emphasis on winning the Olympic gold," he said. "We're preparing like we're playing for the NBA finals. Right now, that's the important thing. When we go back to our teams, winning the NBA title is the most important thing."

Ten years' folks—what happened to the rookie who Mark Mandaraspan—one of the leaders of that team. A day cry from the hang-loose, carefree type of guy who slapped hands with the press on his way out of a post-conference nine years ago.

"When I first came here, I was 19," Bryant said. "Now I'm 29 and all grown up and I've seen how things change and played for Team USA. It feels like I've come full circle."

Eagles take on winless Maroons; Bulldogs battle Falcons

Romanpadilla

Rolling (Eats) at 7-4, the Eagles are jockeying for position against La Salle (5-3), defending champion Souvo Tomas Tigers (7-3) and the Far Eastern Tamaraws (6-4).

"We don't want to end up in a tie with LSU and FEU because they beat us by a bigger margin, than we beat them," said Black. "The question system doesn't really sure up right now so we really have to win."

In the second game, the National Bulldogs will try to keep their slim Final Four chances alive versus the Adamson Falcons at 4 p.m.

If the Eagles secure their fourth straight victory, the Katipunan-based crew will also remain in the running for the twice-to-beat semifinal bonus.

All the teams are a lot tougher," said Black. "You really have to be on top of your game. Otherwise, other teams may take advantage of you."

It's the reason the Eagles have been guarded in predicting a repeat of their 79-55 rout of the Maroons in the first round.

"What we have to work concentrating on the last time of we want to get the Final Four, we have to keep a certain level of play," said Black.

Last Saturday, forward Henry Bolden delivered his finest performance in his debut season with 16 points, seven rebounds and three blocks to pace the Eagles to an 81-68 triumph versus Adamson.

And like the Maroons, the Falcons are out of the Final Four race with a record 1-10 card. The Bulldogs' chances also started to fade after three straight losses that pushed them down to ninth place at 4-7.

Antolino M. Pajo

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Lower P300 per month
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August inflation eases further to 2.4%

Rate seen staying below gov't target of 4-5%

By Michelle V. Remo

THE INFLATION RATE FOR August eased further to 2.4 percent from 2.6 percent in July as nearly all commodity groups registered slower price increases during the month, the National Statistics Office reported yesterday.

This brought the average inflation for the first eight months of the year to 2.6 percent, still much lower than the government's target of between 4 and 5 percent.

Core inflation, which excludes volatile prices of selected food and energy items, eased at 2.9 percent, slower than the 3 percent recorded in July. Average core inflation for January-to-August stood at 3 percent.

Prices of food, beverages and tobacco rose an average 2.5 percent, slower than the previous month's 2.6; housing and repairs, 1.2 percent from 1.3.

(Related Stories)

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■ **Maynilad soon** to exit rehab /B3

China's Shimao eyes 2 BCDA lots in Boni

By Konrad W. Dumlao

CHINA'S REAL ESTATE GIANT SHIMAO group is vying for a joint venture with the Bases Conversion Development Authority on two properties for the development of "high-end, mixed-use" projects.

Xiaotao L. Ahuja, BCDA president and chief executive, said the properties included the 7.4-hectare lot that Shimao was initially interested in and where it was planning to invest some ₱2 billion on hotels, condominiums, offices and a commercial complex.

Ahuja said Shimao was also looking at an area covering 35.40 hectares known as the Zoning housing area from which retired Armed Forces officials have been evicted following an ownership dispute.

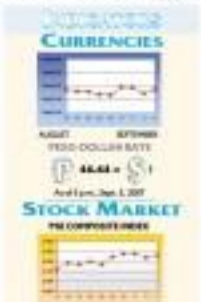
He said the Chinese firm was requested to submit a project proposal for the 7.4-hectare lot by November while another proposal for the larger parcel of land was expected next year.

Ahuja clarified that joint venture agreements for both properties would go through a bidding in a modified bidding such as a Swiss challenge, following a government policy that requires a competitive process for the selection of government partners.

"The National Economic and Development Authority is currently working on the terms of reference on how to enter into joint ventures like this," he added.

The Ayala-led United States-Philippines Assistance Group (USPAG)—so-called because it was originally a housing project for the

(Continued on B3)



(For more market news on Page B4)

Stocks close higher on Wall St. rise

SHARE PRICES CLOSED SLIM PEMIUM higher yesterday following gains on Wall Street where data showing modest growth in the manufacturing sector gave investors a bit cheerful said.

They said fresh optimism that the US Federal Reserve will trim interest rates later this month also bolstered sentiment.

The composite index rose 35.76 points to 3,342.35. Gainers beat losers 73 to 51, while 50 stocks ended flat. A total of 2.7 billion shares worth ₱3.3 billion changed hands.

"The market again tracked US stocks while investors also have discounted the subprime mortgage concerns," said Jose Nicolas at All Capital Securities.

But Vivian said investors would continue to be cautious on the last day of the Federal Reserve's policy meeting on Sept. 18.

"Therefore are becoming very selective and are going into quality stocks rather than betting on speculative issues," he said.

(STOCKS B5)

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SMC fund keen on buying Bank of Commerce shares

Exec says possible investment to beef up bank's capital base

By Doris C. Dumlao

EDUARDO CO

THE EXTREMELY FUND of food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp. is in talks with Bank of Commerce over a possible investment as the medium-sized financial institution.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, San Miguel Corp.'s Retirement Fund announced its interest to buy shares in BOC.

In a separate interview, BOC president Fund de Oliva said the bank was indeed looking up to capital base, but stressed that no deal has been finalized yet.

"Nobody's selling any stake," the bank president said. It does "It will be new capital."

BOC is the banking arm of businessman Antonio "Tantoy" Cojuangco, cousin of SMC then Ed- ander "Sonny" Cojuangco. The disclosure did not provide details.

De Oliva declined to say how much in new capital BOC would like to raise and how the proceeds would be used.

"It will still be subject to negotiation up to you," he said.

BOC appears to have joined other local banks in their effort to beef up their respective capital base this year to be able to expand loan portfolios amid higher capital adequacy requirements under the Basel II framework.

The bank currently has a capital adequacy ratio of 12 percent. Aside from handling within regulatory requirements, BOC is also investing in the overseas market.

BOC recently made inroads in Africa's banking sector by putting up a national bank in the oil-rich Equatorial Guinea. It helped the central African country set up its $6-million bank, acquiring a 30 percent stake in it.

Banco Nacional de Guinea Equatorial, the first domestic ally, has operational bank, is 46 percent owned by the government of Equatorial Guinea, and 30 percent set up by other private sector partners, including a big oil firm.

In 2006, BOC posted a net profit of P586 million against only $ 93.68 million the previous year.

Its loans' revenue rose by P447 million, or 30 percent, buoyed by trading gains set pace to one million. Operating expenses were higher by P231 million, or 11 percent. Data for comparative level in 2005.

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Ajinomoto to close Pasig MSG factory

AJINOMOTO IS SET TO CLOSE ITS PASIG City MSG factory on Oct. 30 this year as part of a global restructuring program.

Ajinomoto Philippines Corporation (APC) will instead focus on the sales and marketing of MSG and the other Ajinomoto food products.

"Ajinomoto has made the difficult but strategic business decision to close our MSG factory and to source manufacturing operations in Pasig as part of a shift in how its Ajinomoto headquarters to a global MSG sourcing strategy," said Yutaka Ishijima, president of APC.

Ishijima said the actions being taken concerning the Pasig factory will be unavoidable, and employees will be affected by the closure will be treated fairly, and will receive separation packages that are higher than what the law requires and above industry standards.

APC has significant business relations with over 600,000 wholesalers and retailers in the country and it has been APC's range of products to nationwide.

It has been operating in the Philippines for 49 years.

"We are a well-established household brand in the Philippines and we intend to continue to play a significant role in enhancing the lives of our customers through the development and marketing of a range of value-added products that meet the needs of people throughout this nation," said Ishijima.

August inflation . . .

From page B1

percent; fuel, light and water, 0.1 percent; from 0.3 percent; services, 1.8 percent from 2.1 percent; and miscellaneous items, 1.4 percent from 1.5 percent. Inflation for a challenging was the same in July and August at 2.2 percent.

BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said price movements in August confirmed the central bank's outlook of a sustained benign inflation for this year.

The BSP maintained a neutral monetary policy stance during the meeting of its policy-making Monetary Board last July 12. It slashed its policy rate to new record lows from 7.5 percent but at the same time lifted the reserve ratio in effect the requirement effort of the program.

The timing scheme had been implemented from May to early July to encourage banks to lend more to the public instead of parking bulk of their funds with the central bank.

Explaining the BSP's decision to keep a neutral policy stance, monetary authorities said there was no reason to raise the policy rate given its outlook that inflation would remain benign. The BSP further said that the BSP could see an expansionary monetary policy because inflation risks, such as high liquidity growth, volatile oil prices and weather conditions, remained.

"Even with this neutral price assessment, we think keep a watchful eye on economic risks to guide our conduct of monetary policy going forward," Tetangco said.

Investment bank UBS said inflation was likely to be higher due to a projected increase in oil prices and the impact of the robust economic growth in the first half.

The economy as measured by the gross domestic product, grew 7.3 percent in the second quarter from a year ago largely due to higher government spending and private sector investments. It was the economy's strongest growth since 2004.

Although the robust economic growth was a positive event, economist said this had the negative effect of accelerating inflation.

"Looking forward, headline CPI inflation is likely to edge higher in coming months, albeit still within the BSP's target range," UBS said in its research report on the Philippine economy.

UBS said the benign inflation so far this year allowed the BSP to remain neutral and cannot presume too tightening.

The August CPI data suggests inflation is manageable and given that the BSP believes its policy rate setting is already at neutral, the data support our view for unchanged rates next year-end, even with better-than-expected growth. As such, believe aggressive inflation fears are overdone for BSP to get growth a chance," UBS said.

UBS projected that over the next 10 months, inflation would remain below the BSP's target for 2008 of between 3 and 5 percent.

Kepco needs supply contract before it starts building 200-MW plant

By Abigail L. Ho

KOREA ELECTRIC POWER CORP., THE country's largest independent power producer expects to operate a 200-megawatt (MW) coal-fired power plant in Cebu by 2010.

A previous familiar with the matter said, however, that the start of the plant's construction was hinged on the Energy Regulatory Commission's approval of a power supply deal between Kepco Philippines Corp. and Visayan Geothermal Electric Cooperative Inc.

The applied rate for the Meralco customer was placed at P4.50 a kilowatt-hour.

Other supply contracts were with the Negros Occidental Electric Cooperative Inc. and the Cotabato Region Electric Cooperative Inc., the source said.

"We're still waiting for the ERC's approval of our customer rates on our projected a power supply deal between Kepco Philippines Corp. and Visayan Geothermal Electric Cooperative Inc.

The applied rate for the Meralco customer was placed at P4.50 a kilowatt-hour.

Other supply contracts were with the Negros Occidental Electric Cooperative Inc. and the Cotabato Region Electric Cooperative Inc., the source said.

"We're still waiting for the ERC's approval of our customer rates on our first electric cooperative partner Meralco. As soon as the approval is released, we will issue the tenders and proceed with the construction. That will take 36 months to completion," the source said, adding that the power firm hoped to start construction by early October at the latest.

The source said the plant would take between $100 million and $120 million in contract, to be financed by a Citibank-led consortium of banks.

Kepco, together with Salcon Power Corp., will put up the 200-MW coal-fired power plant in Naga, Cebu.

The project will use clean coal technology, which limits the emission of harmful sulphur oxide and sulfur oxide to environment-friendly levels.

Kepco had earlier expressed interest in bidding for the 600-MW Masinloc coal-fired power plant in Zambales and the 600-MW Calaca coal-fired power facility in Batangas.

It did not push through with the bidding for Masinloc, however. Building by the Lopez group would not take place until next month.

Kepco's Philippine operations currently include Kepco Philippines Corp., which operates the 600-MW Subic's Thermal Power Plant in Rizal, and Kepco Ilijan Corp., which operates the 1,200-MW Ilijan Combined Cycle Power Plant in Batangas.

For MWSI, a way out of rehab

CA ruling also allows Maynilad to get on with infra work

By Amy R. Remo

THE COURT OF APPEALS (CA) denied a petition of a union made up of Maynilad labor leaders for workers, enabling the water firm to push for an early end-term rehabilitation.

Maynilad Water Supervisory Association had sought reversal of the appeals court to prevent Judge Reynaldo Daway from hearing the rehabilitation case of Maynilad Water.

That decision would also enable Maynilad to accelerate on-going infrastructure projects throughout the First Zone.

In a decision authored by Associate Justice Myna Dimaranan Vidal and promulgated on Aug. 10, 2007, the CA ordered MWSI's claim that Daway had been "biased and partial" against the union, particularly over the issue of unsolicited benefits.

Those include the cost of living allowance and provisions of the Collective Bargaining Agreement.

The Court ruled that, throughout the rehabilitation case pending, the respondent judge "did not commit grave abuse of discretion amounting to lack or excess of jurisdiction," and that it did not use any "compelling reasons to Judge Daway to disqualify himself from handling the case."

MWSI on Dec. 5, 2006 filed a motion for voluntary inhibition of Judge Daway on the ground that the judge allegedly exhibited partiality in the pretrial view Hapon hall's rehabilitation case.

Judge Daway, however, maintained that the motion against him was "completely baseless," and that his actual only "in the interest of fairness and transparency to all concerned including the supervisors."

In April 2007, MWSI then filed a petition for certiorari, which resulted in the CA issuing a 60-day temporary restraining order on the judge.

The TRO effectively prevented Maynilad from ending rehabilitation at the soonest possible time.

"While it is within the right of MWSI-OLR to oppose to the plan to end their rehabilitation,

ENGDA

the efforts of the TRO have become a stumbling block to the continued drive to make Maynilad truly a viable company," Maynilad president Angelo Siopson said in a statement.

Siopson had since urged employees to set aside their differences, as the company could no longer delay the process which would allow Maynilad to pass areas its targets and fulfill its commitment to over six million customers.

The office of Maynilad and government and banking stakeholders to get the concessionaire's out of rehabilitation culminated in the signing of the Suspension and Settlement Agreement and the Transitional and Confirmatory Agreement on Aug. 31 2007.

The different parties have been in the thick of negotiations since the new Metrobid owners, the DMCI-Mitsu Pacific consortium, took over in January 2007.

The Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System had already endorsed the TOA to the Department of Finance, and is now awaiting action/enlightenment by the government.

Maynilad has been under rehabilitation since it filed for insolvency in 2003, after incurring heavy losses largely due to the 1998 Asian financial crisis.

Maynilad has recovered since 2004 and, following a deal, was acquired by DMCI and MWC in late 2006 as part of the rehabilitation plan.

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UK-RP energy deal worth $1.3B collapses

A $1.3-BILLION deal between a state-run Philippine energy firm and British company NRG Chemical Engineering to build biofuel facilities here, has collapsed, a senior official yesterday said.

PHOC-Alternative Fuels Corp. (PHOC-AFC) was supposed to form a joint venture (JV) to set up a plantation and facility for production of alternative fuels in the country, but an official close to the talks said PHOC-AFC chose not to sign.

The official, who requested anonymity, would not say why the deal did not push through but added that NRG Chemical had decided to go with another local firm in the private sector. He would not identify that firm.

The two firms had originally planned to build a 3.5-million metric ton bio-refinery at a cost of $650 million, and a 200,000-million plantation for gumpha, a plant material which is used in producing biofuels.

They also plan to build a 300,000 metric ton bio-ethanol plant at a cost of $100 million.

President Macapagal-Arroyo signed the Biofuels Act of 2006 early this year, hoping to reduce the country's dependence on imported crude oil in favor of alternative fuels produced locally.

The law mandates the blending of one percent bio-diesel in all diesel products starting May.

By 2009, all gasoline products to be sold in the country should have a 5-percent ethanol mix. AFP

Gov't seeks to tighten oil grip on ecozone locators

By Michelle V. Ramos

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO is set to issue an executive order requiring economic zone locators to originally declare the volume of their oil importations requirements.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said the order, which he said should be out soon, is meant to curb tolerated smuggling of oil.

Importations in excess of the declared volume of oil by ecozone locators will not be allowed entry, Teves said.

Tolerated smuggling of oil is normally done by falsely declaring that it is imported by an economic zone locator. Locators are granted duty-free privilege as a reward for their dollar contributions to the country through exports.

In a Congressional hearing on the proposed 2008 national budget, Teves told legislators that the government loses between P60 billion and P65 billion a year due to tolerated smuggling, largely of oil.

The government is hardpressed to plug revenue leaks, which may derail the country's effort to meet its fiscal targets. In the first half, the government reported an onerous $46 billion.

The government is trying to curb its cumbersome to reduce the budget deficit to P63 billion this year, from last year's P84.8 billion, and to post a balanced budget by next year.

The executive order will be issued following the failure of the Bureau of Customs to meet its tax and duty collection targets in the first half.

In a recent meeting between the President and Customs officials, the latter said one reason for the collection shortfall was the drop in the import value of oil.

The President, however, did not accept the excuse, saying it was impossible for oil importations to have dropped because the economy grew robustly.

"Into the tanker[s] dribbled and everyone should pay their fair share," Teves said in an earlier statement. "We will all benefit from more and better roads, well-trained and well-paid public servants, the delivery of good health services and high standard of public education."

Extending expenditures, the economy grew 7.5 percent in the second quarter from a year ago, its strongest performance in 29 years. For the first half, economic growth averaged at 7.3 percent.

Teves said the Department of Finance, another agency of the BOC, has directed Customs personnel to implement measures to curb the problem of smuggling.

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Splash IPO price at P8.70-P11.18

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

PERSONAL CARE PRODUCTS maker Splash Corp. aims to raise between P1.9 billion and P2.5 billion from an initial public offering this year, the company said in a report to regulators.

Splash will sell 223.86 million shares at P8.79 to P11.18 each. The offer will consist of 188.84 million new shares and 35 million shares held by parent firm Splash Holdings Inc.

Splash Holdings is an investment holding company owned by Splash Group founders Rolando and Rosalinda Ang Hontiveros.

Splash Holdings owns an outgoing whose total gross sales amounted to P6.5 billion for 2006.

The shares to be sold to the public will represent 30 percent of the total issued and outstanding capital stock of the company.

SB Capital Investment Corp. and First Metro Investment Corp. are the lead underwriters for the IPO.

The market value of the company based on its offer price is estimated to fall between P6.09 billion and P8.34 billion after the IPO.

In its prospectus, Splash said the fresh will be spent for research and development (P109.1-P203.5 million), brand management and new product introductions (P126.8-P282.1) million), and acquisitions (P929.0-P1.2 billion).

Philex nets P3.1B in 7 months

By Amy R. Remo

LISTED FIRM PHILEX MINING CORP. SAID it more than doubled its net income for the first seven months of the year to P3.1 billion from P1.4 billion a year ago due to higher metal prices and mine production.

"We are optimistic that this trend will continue until the end of the year," said Walter Brunner, Philex chair and CEO.

Brunner added that with the company's 8-month performance, Philex's earnings were equivalent to P3.038 per share from only 99,471 per share in the year-ago period.

The mining firm earlier reported a net income of P2.5 billion for the first half of the year, also more than double the P1.2 billion made in the same period in 2006.

Philex also posted a higher second quarter net income of P1.5 billion, nearly doubling the P696 million in profit a year ago.

Brunner said they were optimistic of a favorable bottom line if the current prices for copper and gold and the higher metal production from mines remain constant.

"Philex is (also) pursuing other mining exploration projects not only in the country but in other parts of the world as well," he said.

Philex has embarked on an aggressive exploration program this year to take advantage of the commission rise in metal prices.

In August, the company has started an intensive exploration of the existing ore body at its mine site and surrounding prospects.

The company plans to do a drilling test at the Sta. Teresa II ore body of the existing Padcal mine to possibly extend its mine life.

Philex has also programmed several known porphyry copper-gold targets for exploration this year, including the Tapayo prospect and the Batan and Midway gold prospects.

In the Visayas, Philex is re-evaluating the Bulanon gold deposit located in Sipalay, Negros Occidental, for a possible resumption of the mine's operations.

Another joint venture property covered by its permit is the Lascogon project, which is a Philex PECJamocover joint venture also located in Ilocigan del Norte.

Two more targets within the Lascogon project are also scheduled to be evaluated this year.

Brunner earlier said that Philex was evaluating several prospective mining properties in Mindanao.

Atlas inks deal with Aussie firm

LISTED FIRM ATLAS Consolidated Mining and Development Corp. yesterday said its subsidiary Sacobia Holding Corp. had signed a long-term laterite ore supply agreement with Queensland Nickel Pty Ltd., a BHP Billiton company.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Atlas said the five-year supply agreement covered laterite ore from Queensland to extend the term for another five years.

The Queensland contract will provide a base-load for Sacobia's mining operations in Palawan.

"The nickel offtake agreement with a BHP group company gives (the Barrong nickel project both stability and source enhancement," Atlas president and chair Jesus Jacinto said in the disclosure to the stock exchange.

Barrong, which is reported to be the fourth biggest nickel laterite resource worldwide, has an estimated reserve of 27% million dry tons with an average grade of 1.3 percent nickel.

Atlas wanted its direct nickel ore shipments last February from its Barrong joint venture project.

Production is expected to increase significantly over the next three years, Jacinto said.

Amy Remo

ING to set up new equity fund

Investors will get chance to invest in Asian stocks

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

ING INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT GROUP, which manages around P80 billion in assets in the Philippines, plans to put up an investment fund that will allow Filipino investors to buy Asian stocks.

ING Investment Management managing director Cesar Zalsavia said on the sidelines of ING's Funds Tournament awarding ceremony in Makati yesterday that the fund manager had filed an application with the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) for the planned Asian Equity Fund.

"What we want to do here on the Asian side of the business is to introduce Filipino investors to a more diversified offering of investments," Zalsavia said.

"Sure, we know what local bonds are, what local equities are, but the market is relatively small. If we want those investors to be exposed to other types of assets, we should be there," he added.

Although the size of the fund would depend on investor interest, Zalsavia estimated that it would start at $50-$100 million.

He also said that the fund will be invested in major stocks in Asia.

Zalsavia said ING Investment Management hoped to launch the new investment product before the end of the year.

ING Investment Management operates in 32 countries in Asia-Pacific.

These include Japan, Korea, Taiwan, China, Thailand, Singapore, India, Malaysia and Australia.

ING Investment Management is part of the ING Group and is ING's main asset management business unit.

It has over 338 billion euros in assets under management globally for a diverse client range, which includes institutional investors, pension funds, insurance companies, financial institutions, foundations, and retail funds throughout Europe, the Americas and Asia Pacific.

In Philippine unit—ING Investment Management Philippines—operates as the trust department of ING Bank NV (Manila Branch), a branch office of ING Bank NV Netherlands.

Present in the Philippines since 1998, ING IM Philippines provides management services to corporate, institutional and retail clients.

ING IM Philippines launched its range of retail funds in 2000.

Its pure denominated products are the P/E 2020-each management Fund (invested primarily in short-term Philippine government and corporate bonds); ING peso bond fund (fixed-income peso bonds); ING dollar-certified balanced fund (in high-earning stocks and interest income paying bonds) and the ING Philippine equity fund (local stocks).

Its dollar denominated products are the ING Philippine dollar bond fund and the ING dollar income bond (diversified portfolio of bonds from Chile, Malaysia, Russia, Kazakhstan and other emerging markets).

Prospects are good for investment funds as the asset management business has been growing by 20-25 percent over the past five years.

One reason is the low yields on traditional investment vehicles, including savings accounts and government securities that forced investors to look for investments with higher returns.

THE DUMBAY (jai-cooking industry in Vigan City struggles during the rainy season as potters find it difficult to dry their products.

SSS plans more stock investments

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE STATE-OWNED SOCIAL Security Society System expects to increase its investments in local stocks by about P21.2 billion after getting a favorable investment valuation ruling from the Commission on Audit.

SSS assistant vice president Ma. Lue Cruzmona said yesterday that the COA had issued an opinion that the limit on the fund's investments—including stock market investments—should be based on the acquisition cost and not current market prices.

If stock market investments were marked to market prices, the SSS investments in the stock market as end-June stood at P80.9 billion, equivalent to 10 percent of the investment reserve fund of P200 billion, thus exceeding the limit of 30 percent.

But since the SSS was allowed by COA to compute its exposure based on the acquisition cost, the SSS stock market investments are officially valued at only P20.8 billion during the same period, or 10.4 percent of the reserve fund.

As such, Cruzmona said the SSS has room to increase its stock market investments.

Base on the investment reserve fund of P200 billion, the SSS can invest about P60 billion in the stock market based on its current limit.

The pension fund set a stock investment limit of 30 percent of the reserve fund to prevent the fund from putting too much money in the market like what happened during the time of ousted President Joseph E. Estrada.

Shored up by huge stock market windfall, the SSS' investments' income almost doubled to P15.3 billion in the first half of the year from P7.7 billion a year ago.

Extraordinary gains from the sale of its shares in San Miguel Corp., Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. and Ayala Land Inc. also led to the increase in its investment income.

BROOKE'S POINT FIND

Macroasia, Toledo to develop Palawan nickel prospects

LISTED FIRM MACROASIA CORP. signed yesterday a memorandum of understanding with Toledo Mining Corp. (TMC) on a proposed joint development of two nickel projects in Palawan.

In a disclosure, Macroasia said the joint development involves the Infanta nickel project and the adjoining Cotabato Nickel Project in Brooke's Point, Palawan.

TMC and its affiliates hold the mining interest in the Colossal nickel project, which they co-own with Cotabato Nickel Mining Exploration Corp.

Macroasia and TMC will undertake studies that will create possible joint work on the mining claims.

The Infanta nickel deposit extends across the common boundary area controlled by Macroasia and TMC.

Both Macroasia and TMC have been drilling and testing their respective areas to define the extent of the nickel laterite mineralization. Macroasia said in a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange.

Based on drilling on an area of roughly 300 hectares, TMC has defined more than 68 million tons of mineralization.

It is expected that the Macroasia project has similar nickel laterite mineralization.

The possible joint development of the combined properties should make it easier for both companies to meet all standards of responsible mining, including environmental protection and community and social development, Macroasia said.

Mining firms are aggressively searching for nickel, which is used in the production of stainless steel.

The Philippines is said to have considerable untapped reserves. —Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

September 6, 2007 Issues	Last	Net Equivalent	Gross Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	1.73000	1.000000	48.5000
Japan	Yen	0.01454	0.008406	0.4000
United Kingdom	Pound	1.43900	1.31000	69.8750
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.22100	0.128000	6.2000
Netherlands	Euro	1.04643	0.605125	30.4625
Canada	Dollar	1.75000	0.982125	48.4375
Singapore	Dollar	1.07751	0.623000	30.2250
Australia	Dollar	0.95113	0.550000	26.6875
Bahrain	Dinar	1.10000	1.000000	125.0000
Saudi Arabia	Riyal	0.46133	0.266750	12.9375
Brunei	Dollar	1.05214	0.608250	29.5125
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.00013	0.000100	0.0049
Thailand	Baht	0.05141	0.029725	1.4425
UAE	Dirham	0.47100	0.272250	13.2125
EU	Euro	1.04643	0.605125	30.4625
Korea	Won	0.00186	0.001075	0.0525
China	Yuan	0.22100	0.127750	6.2000
Switzerland	Franc	0.71429	0.412975	20.0375
India	Rupee	0.04311	0.024925	1.2025
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.50000	0.289125	14.0250
New Zealand	Dollar	1.27154	0.735250	35.6750
Sweden	Krona	0.15625	0.114000	11.2500
Syria	Pound	0.03358	0.019412	0.9400
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.05313	0.030725	1.4375
Vietnam	Dollar	0.00010	0.000063	0.0031

Source: Bankers Association of the Philippines

China's Shimao eyes . . .

From page B1

American agency which declined to take it—was recently the subject of an ownership dispute between SEDC and a homeowners' association comprised of the owners of several themed Fantasy villas.

The Supreme Court ruled in favor of SEDC, which is preparing to appraise the area toward eventual disposition of the asset. Through a joint venture with a private company.

Last May, Abaya said Shimao chair Hui Wing Mau personally reiterated his serious interest in investing in Fort Bonifacio during a recent meeting with BCDA officials in Hong Kong that month.

Abaya said Shimao was a world-class, fast-paced developer that could finish a 900-room twin-tower luxury hotel in 10 months, as what they did with the Hyatt Hotel at the Bund in Shanghai.

BCDA Chair Alejandro Lacson had said that Shimao's entry into the domestic retiring would set a new standard in real estate development in the Philippines.

The China visit by Lacson and Abaya was made upon the invitation of Hui, who came to Manila last March to sign a memorandum of understanding with the BCDA on a joint development of a sizable portion of land at the Global City.

Also on that first was one of the biggest partnerships of the government for property development in 2007, which would further boost the asset disposition program of BCDA and enhance its revenue-generating capability.

Stocks close higher . . .

From page B1

But Ron Rodrigo of Unicapital Securities said Monday remained fundamentally strong, noting that its earnings in the next four years were expected to remain strong.

"And the company itself was no reason why foreign investors should dump the stock," he said. —AFP

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Baliwag Navigation, Inc.

wishes to announce the untimely demise of

Capt. Angel Caro Sicat

Master Mariner and Senior Fleet Manager

on 03 September 2007.

His remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz in Araneta Avenue, Quezon City. A Funeral Mass will be held on 06 September 2007 at 7:30 a.m. Interment will be held thereafter at the Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina City.

Our deepest sympathies and condolences to his bereaved wife, **Mrs. Consuelo Sicat**, to his daughter **Atty. Aileen Sicat**, and to all his relatives.

"I will not leave you comfortless; I will come to you." John 14:18

Message of Thanks

BENJAMIN CUI ENCARNACION

of Calapan, Mindoro Oriental
and La Vista, Quezon City
B.S. Electrical Engineering 1950
University of the Philippines, Diliman

August 13, 1917 – August 28, 2007

We, his children: Lily Frederes, Mary and Edna, Bobbed and Edith-Bay Escalettes, Nina and Elsie Tan, Sylvia and Jun Lachenbalm, Pat and Sherlyn, Tess and Ed Tadena, Mark, Mike and Jim Cui, Mina and Margie Chiock, and grandchildren Vhe and Bea, Nenet, Alfie, Jim, Mike, Jean C., Otto, Arnel, Jun, Bunjo, Susie, Karen, Angela, Nhara, Bingo, Mateo, Emilio and Antonio, thank you for your prayers, kindness, love, and prayers during our time of deep sorrow.

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vda. de CONCEPCION

ROMEO JIMENEZ SAN GABRIEL

"I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

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Our Dearly Beloved

Maria Chan Hao

Peacefully passed away the Lord on September 05, 2007 at the age of 84

Her remains lie in state at Inurnhaven, Inc. 750 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City.

Cremation will be on September 10, 2007, 11:00 a.m. at Inurnhaven, Inc. 750 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City.

LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.

Newly weds and friends of a loved one who had just passed away.

People, Events & Products

Deadline for Panasonic's The Art of Life photo contest extended

PANASONIC EXTENDS ITS TARGET FOR THE "THE ART OF LIFE BY PANASONIC" PHOTO CONtest up to Sept. 30. Panasonic hopes to highlight photographic excellence that is distinctly Pinoy as the creative flair of many Filipinos behind the lens will be on the line here. Explore and hidden on million colors and angles via 4-mb (8m) greatest wonders like tribal, rituals, fashion, sports, careers, family-oriented concepts and other daily occurrences in the urban and rural settings. Sigh, lighting the "art of life" present in both the traditional and modern ways of living. After "The Art of Life by Panasonic" finalists are chosen, they will continue their entry journey through a digital list of "Panasonic in the life of the consumers" by going to the talented Panasonic dealers and portray Panasonic's contribution to the Filipino way of life. Only one entry per photographer is allowed. Any type or brand of camera can be used to the contest. Each entry should be bottom be accompanied by the complete recipe placed on flat packaged or mailing folder, and in digital image on CD for best. Place your name, address and contact numbers on the back of the envelope for your submitted entries. Entries will be judged according to creativity, relevance to theme, quality of presentation and visual impact. First prize winner will receive P50,000; second to receive P30,000 and the third prize winner P10,000. The top three winners will also receive their own Panasonic camera each. Interested individuals may send their entries to Fort Orion Communications at 15/F Philtrades Tower, San Miguel Ave. Bridges Center, Pasig City.

Michelin moves to new Greenhills location

MICHELIN, THE TOP BRAND FOR HIGH QUALITY STERling silver jewelry and accessories, moves its Greenhills boutique to a new and better location. Michelin fans can now find their favorite jewelry at the Greenhills Branch in the Ortigas area, occupying and bordering 2nd floor of Shoppesville. The new location better showcases Michelin jewelry. Michelin offers the widest variety of premium sterling silver jewellery for the discriminating market, from the traditional jewellery pieces to extraordinary silver gift items. With this new location, Michelin has also dedicated part of its store to its new Mens jewellery collection. The new look in the Michelin Greenhills products, prices and more are possible to lower prices and value jewelry fanatics alike. It is all part of the company's goal to bring to you how the ingenuity and excellence of Filipino craftsmanship not just to global audiences but most importantly, among fellow Filipinos as well. Michelin has been producing world-class silver jewelry since the brand's birth in 1996. Other Michelin shops and boutiques are also to be found in Greenbelt 1, Libertad at the Power Plant, Robinsons Ermita Plaza and Ermita, Rockwell Alabang Town Center, Robinsons Tower Shangri-La Plaza, and at the Lobbies of Mandarin Oriental Hotel and Shangri-La Hotel, Makati.

Marist Homecoming

THE GOLDEN JUBILARIANS OF MARIST SCHOOL CLASS of 1957 present their plans for the Grand Alumni Homecoming on Sept. 8, to Bro. Fred S. Gonzaga, FMS, president of Marist School in Marikina. The event is presented by FMSI, in cooperation with Mother Johnson Walker, and AGSAO, Baghdalenae started it all on the Marian Grade School lawn. For inquiries contact Tony Bolos at (02)7-4888133.

Finance educators to be cited

FINANCE EDUCATORS WHO HAVE MADE A MARK IN THE lives of Filipino students can now be recognized for their noble efforts through the Pulse101 Scholarship Outstanding Finance Educator Awards Program which was recently launched by Pulse101.com, the first online financial education center the inception of the Business Education Committee of the Ateneo Foundation and Citi Philippines with funding from the Citi Foundation in New York, the awards program is a Filipino driven teaching finance and/or finance related courses in a Philippine school that was a finalist in the last presenting to her College Admission Test (CAT), according to Nell Ann Y. Bautista, CEO of The Pulse101.com and Executive Director of the Pulse Foundation. Manuela recalled that "to qualify, a candidate must be nominated by his or her school, has been enrolled in a finance educator for at least three years, has earned very satisfactory college during the period, and fulfills other requirements specified in the General Guidelines of the Rafael S. Bautista Outstanding Finance Educators Awards Program." The deadline for submission of the applications is on Oct. 31. For more details, interested persons may call or write to Pulse Foundation, Unit 310 Mirant Bldg., Ateneo de Manila University, tel/fax: (02) 911-4012, (02)911-4484, (02)911-4186 loc (02)711-4186, e-mail: admin@fmsi.org.ph.

New US slimming product enters RP

HYDROXYCUT, RECENTLY LAUNCHED INTO THE MARKET BY Mega Lifesciences Ply Ltd. is touted as the world's most strong-flavored slimming beverage to the Filipino consumers. The secret to Hydroxycut's success as a slimming drink, however, is not its taste but its active ingredient. Super Chromax, a proprietary formulation exclusive to United States that comes from the extract of the fruit Garcinia Cambogia used to enhance the body's ability to burn fat and calories. The extract contains 7% percent Hydroxycitric Acid, a natural organic acid similar to the one found in citrus fruits like oranges and lemons but with remarkably different properties. While citric acid is beneficial to the human body because it acts as a natural preservative and an antioxidant, Hydroxycitric Acid, when mixed with other naturally occurring chemicals present in the diet, is a fatter because it boosts fat oxidation in the body so that it can convert the body into fat-burning machine. Hydroxycut is also a unique slimming product because it is the only weight loss formula that is clinically proven to help you lose weight safely. Studies have shown that Hydroxycut can help you lose up to 20 pounds in eight weeks. Hydroxycut is an easy and convenient way to eliminate fat and maintain figure since it is available in pre-measured and packaged in sachets and can be consumed in seconds once it is easily dissolved in a glass of water, just like a regular soft drink. In order to make it effortless for slimmer in maintain diets, healthy bodies, individuals are advised to consume at least two sachets of Hydroxycut everyday, 30 minutes before every meal. The product is also readily available in Mercury outlets and most major drugstores at an affordable price, attaching the consumer's mission of improving human health by providing quality medicines and health products at the P1,000 price range. For more information about Hydroxycut and other Mega Lifesciences products, call 812-854-1111 or e-mail hydroxycut@megalifesciences.com.

Invincibility for every nation

MUHAMMAD MAHATHIR YOGA INTRODUCED THE TRANSCENdental Meditation technique 40 years ago and his country of Malaysia has been enjoying the many benefits of this technique offering consistently to all the 192 nations of the world. Invincibility for the nation means a life free from negativity, only positivity for the whole population. Affluence and integrity will prevail on national life. Malaysia is becoming the wealthy, patriotic citizens of our country found support in the founding of a Taste of Invincibility, a modern movement that will make the nation of invincibility in the Philippines. The 12-story home, preferably to be built in the land part of the capital city, will have units have an invincibility School where students will create invincibility for the country. The students will receive ideal education and become enlightened leaders of the society. The neighborhoods will be linked together. Yogas material Meditation and the Maharishi Vedic technologies. Yogas healing, the students and administrators will practice it as they create an influence of harmony throughout society. Those who will participate in founding funds for the construction of the Taste of Invincibility will be honored as Founders of Invincibility Philippines. This basic standing as a pride of the nation, will perpetuate their names in fulfilling the most desirable invincibility dream of the Filipino people. For more details, Ms. Thess Valenzuela to participate can contact Dr. Policarpio Castillo at (02)920-1370 Dr. Castillo is Vice of the Maharishi Global Administrative through National Coordinator of the Philippines, Inc. He is not a generation teaching Transcendental Meditation in the Philippines for the past 33 years.

Nutrilite's global spokesperson

AMERICAN FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION OF ATHLETES HALL OF FAME (AAFF) HOME founder/world record holder Lu Gang has been named global spokesperson for Nutrilite, the world's leading brand of vitamin, mineral and dietary supplements. With this appointment, Lu joins 100-meter sprint world record holders Bobby Powell on the high profile athletes to represent Nutrilite. The company's decision to choose Nutrilite and Lu Gang as the newly-signed athlete is a testament to the brand's dedication to health and nutrition. Nutrilite has enlisted scientists who will work closely with the Chinese Track and Field Association to maximize Lu Gang's performance. Lu will be excellent and thorough consulting services. Lu Gang's story is one of setting and achieving goals. Born to long-time and his competing with other world-class track during the rule and the result is an athlete who is Nutrilite's Gang partnership continues to Nutrilite. Lu Gang definitely looks poised to break and set more records in the coming years. Nutrilite products are exclusively distributed by Independent Business Owners of Amway, a global leader in the direct selling business.

Bits & Clips

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Center for Health Development - Zamboanga Peninsula
IMARIGDAO (TUBIG) REGIONAL HOSPITAL
Margosatubig, Zamboanga del Sur

Project Identification Number: ARMM-09-0007
Name of the Project: **Procurement of Goods**

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **IMARIGDAO (TUBIG) REGIONAL HOSPITAL**, through its Bids and awards Committee (BAC), invites supplier/manufacturer/distributors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of the Project	**Procurement of Goods**
Location	**Margosatubig, Zamboanga del Sur**
Brief Description	**Drugs and Medicines, Medical Supplies, Dental Supplies and Laboratory Supplies, X-Ray, Hospital Equipments**
Approved Budget For the Contract	**Fourteen Million (14,000,000.00)**
Contract Duration	**Six (6) months**
Delivery Period	**Date of delivery is reflected on the approved Purchase Order (P.O.)**

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last (2) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Assessment and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The Complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

	Activities	Schedule
1.	Issuance of Bid Documents	September 6, 2007
2.	Pre-Bid Conference	September 14, 2007
3.	Submission of Letter of Intent and Applications for Eligibility	September 19, 2007
4.	Opening of Bids	September 20, 2007
5.	Bid Evaluation	September 20, 2007
6.	Post-qualification	October 10 to 11, 2007
7.	Notice of Award	October 12-20, 2007

Bid Documents will be available only to eligible bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Three Thousand Pesos (P3,000.00) to the Margosatubig Regional Hospital Cashier.

The Margosatubig Regional Hospital assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

IMARIGDAO (TUBIG) REGIONAL HOSPITAL
MR. GUERINO L. BRIONES, MPA
Acting BAC Secretariat
Professional Compounding, Zamboanga del Sur
Contact No.: (062)9090419

(Sgd.) **EMANUEL O. ALFARO, M.D.**
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(CR - Sept. 3 & 6, 2007)

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LIFESTYLE
Editor Chela Bautista-Francisco

TOMORROW
- The fourth Master of Design
- Endless summer fashion

IN THIS ISSUE
- **Step-by-step** Pinoy Paella /D4
- **Haute couture** desserts /D4

MANGOSTEEN
is probably the most coveted fruit from Southeast Asia at present

its flavor is complex—sweet, sour, creamy, plus it contains all the good stuff that promotes good health

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KITCHEN RESCUE
Reggie Aspiras

The queen becomes an international star

CAN YOU TELL ME HOW TO MAKE MANGOSTEEN puree/juice since I grow fruits to my farm and I want to put up a business such as chilled juice blends?

ROSELLER REYES

Mangosteen, queen in durian's thing, is perhaps the most coveted fruit from Southeast Asia in the international market today, selling for as much as US$45 per pound in special-fruit stores in New York. No fruit is—bar maybe none in vogue.

What makes mangosteen so fashionable? For starters, its fruit is as complex in flavor: sweet, sour, creamy, contrasting all the good stuff that promotes good health.

A juicy splendored thing indeed is the queen! It contains xanthones, known to scientists as the most powerful of antioxidants, substances that combat disease-causing oxygen free radicals.

It is said there are 110 xanthones in nature and more than 40 are found in mangosteen. Remarkably, it is the whole fruit, not just the flesh, that is packed with antibiotics.

Since 600 AD, mangosteen has been known as a healing agent and was used by scribes in Southeast Asia. The rind was dried and dried, pulverized and taken as an herbal concoction; for external use, it was made into an ointment. The juice was also steeped in watery overnight and drunk as tea.

Though some studies say the health benefits of mangosteen have not been established conclusively, many swear by its healing powers.

According to Dr. Roy Inabalan, MD, medicine center and "mangosteen has compounds with antioxidant, antibacterial, antifungal, and anticancer activity. Laboratory testing thus far indicates that extracts of mangosteen have activity against several cancers cell lines including breast, liver and leukemia. Mangosteen also appears to have antihistamine and non-inflammatory properties."

Personally, I think you do not lose anything if you use it as a supplement.

Whether or not the fruit is all that it is heralded to be, the late romantic that England's Queen Victoria offered a knighthood to anyone who could procure her the mangosteen. In the end, as far as this purple gem is concerned, it is the flavor that makes for ultra splendor.

Here are your recipes. I don't know if you wanted a fruit juice or the juice that you can all the rind. (Hope it's fruit juice you're searching for.

To prepare pulp

Remove fruit pericarp/peel and separate fruit from seed.

Store in an airtight container.

Freeze pulp until needed.

Mangosteen Juice

1/3 c mangosteen pulp

¼ c simple syrup (1 c water/1 ¼ c sugar, boil until slightly thick)

1 c crushed ice

Process in a blender. Serve garnished with mint leaves.

Blended Juice Drink

1/3 c mangosteen pulp

1/3 c milk or yogurt

sugar, honey or syrup

Process in a blender. Serve garnished with mint leaves.

And this, though not a drink, remains one of my favorite things to do with mangosteen.

THE QUEEN C.

Sautéing made easy

KNOWN FOR ITS LINE OF healthy and tasty sauces, mixes and other cooking ingredients, Manos Inc's new outlet in the age-old practice of sautéing easier and faster without sacrificing flavor.

With Manos Inc's Pang Gisa Mix, housewives and working moms need not chop, slice and dice to come up with great-tasting gisa. Cooking is an easy 10-minute affair.

Manos Inc's Pang Gisa Mix is made from natural ingredients, like pure chicken extract and dozen spices, especially grown by small farmers in villages and communities. It has no MSG.

The blend of spices and ingredients in the Pang Gisa Mix follows the secret recipe of Teresita "Manos Inc" Rivera, founder of Manos Inc.

A budget-friendly premium product, Pang Gisa Mix can make even plain or fried rice more exciting. It is in powder or cube mixture to suspend and tumble. It is available in 10-g packets.

Manos Inc shares the following recipe using Pang Gisa Mix with banana blossom.

Banana Blossom Torta

(Makes 6 servings)

2 tbsp vegetable oil
1 pc onion, chopped
6 cloves garlic, minced
1 pc piece tag-ingang (baby), minced
1 pouch Manos Inc's Pang Gisa Sisad Mix
1 tbsp oyster sauce, fresh
1 tbsp cane sugar, chopped
3 pc eggs, medium size, beaten
1 tbsp spring onions, chopped
¼ cup singkamas chopped

1. Sauté the garlic and onions and add the banana blossom.

(MANAS Blossom Torta)

2. Mix in Manos Inc's Pang Gisa Mix to intensify the flavor of the ingredients.

3. Add singkamas, oyster and cane sugar. Sauté for a minute.

4. Remove from heat. Set aside to cool before adding eggs and spring onions.

5. Stir-fry the mixture until golden brown.

6. Serve hot with Brown Sauce.

7. Garnish with spring onions, red bell peppers, and fried lubeo.

Brown Sauce

1 c water
1 tbsp sugar
4 tbsp oyster sauce
½ pc coconut meat
2 cloves garlic, chopped
1 tbsp ginger, grated
1 tbsp spring onions, chopped
1 tbsp oil, vegetable

1. Heat oil and sauté garlic until white.

2. Add rest of the ingredients and cook until thick.

3. Serve hot with Banana Blossom Torta.

(MANAS Blossom Torta)

Ginataang Santol

(Makes 4-5 servings)

4 pc santol pulp, peeled, seeded and sliced
1½ c water
1 c kakang gata
1 pc siling pang-sigang, sliced diagonally
1 pouch Manos Inc's Pang Gisa Sisad Mix
Siling labuyo for garnish

1. Sauté the santol in water for five minutes or until slightly softened.

2. Combine water and ½ cup kakang gata in a casserole or pan. Bring to a boil with coconut stirring.

3. Drain the santol and squeeze out the water, then add santol.

4. Add the oil and Manos Inc's Pang Gisa mix. Cook over low heat with constant stirring until thick.

5. Add the remaining gata and cook for a minute. Don't overcook to avoid curdling the sauce.

6. Serve hot seasoned with siling labuyo for garnish.

Chefs' secrets revealed

SAN MIGUEL PURE Foods-Green Food Industries (SMPF-GFI) brings back one of the country's top culinary experts, Chef Ilmar Simon, to share his culinary expertise once more at the year's Asia Food Expo Sept. 5-8 at the World Trade Center, Pasay.

Together with Simon, distinguished Japanese, Korean and Filipino chefs from the Hotel Okura Culinary School will showcase famous products of San Miguel Pure Foods in an array of mouthwatering creations, ranging from mother dishes to delectable dishes in the most useful of desserts.

Aptly titled "Favorite Restaurant and Cold Recipes Revealing the Chefs' Secrets," the exhibition will surely make timely discoveries in the mouthwatering dishes Sept. 6, 1:30 p.m., as the guest chefs reveal the secrets behind hearty entrées and cold recipes, while whipping together a scrumptious feast at the Abo mini-culinary area.

Building food relationships and food and cooking techniques are encouraged in drop by cooking demonstrations Sept. 6, 2:30 p.m., as San Miguel Pure Foods Green Food Solutions share tasty secrets which would definitely add to their food knowledge and skills and give an extra boost to business.

"We encourage food enthusiasts to come and explore opportunities on how San Miguel Pure Foods GFI, the total food solutions provider of the top industry players for food service, hotels, caterers, and restaurants, can help them in their business operations," said Helmer Pesengco, GFI general manager.

"Our team of food experts will be there to help them identify solutions to grow their business better, and establish a distinct character suited to their food offerings before their own clients."

"From cooking and baking demonstrations to operational tips to simple green tricks and easy to do recipes crafted by the chefs from the San Miguel Pure Foods Culinary Center using San Miguel brands/food products such as: Pure Foods Hormel Meatballs, Monterey Star Mcg Coffee, San Miguel Milk Pro-actives, and Great Food Solutions Cook Express," Pesengco promises those exciting activities that await attendees of this year's Asia Food Expo.

The 13th International Exposition on Food Processing, Packaging and Handling Machinery, Equipment and Technology will feature together a comprehensive showcase of food facilities and expertise—from the best of the country's food equipment and top food ingredients manufacturers and suppliers, to culinary activities and demonstrations.

THE CONSUMER

A game no longer worthy of generals

By Linda B. Bolido

RUNDE ITOA SEEMS DISMAYED BY the "shabby" treatment Filipinos give to local festivities.

He notes "the sad plight of our homegrown Filipino musicians and is struck that the stable treatment is coming from their own habals, kapwa Pilipino."

Simon is referring in particular to the Game of the Generals (GG) invented by the late Fernando Poe Jr., to an objection in the foreign game board shows.

"I clearly remember the first time I saw a set of the GG. It was packaged [like] a chessboard... contained in a wooden case... with square holes in gray and white," he says.

"Inside are [the metal pieces marked] with different military ranks. The game is very simple but interesting to play... It's a mind game similar to poker," Simon adds.

But the "new" version of the GG is a disappointment, he says. The glistening metal pieces with artistic etchings and beautiful wooden case are gone.

"What are being sold now are cheaper plastic or metal pieces and paper markers... With the substandard quality of products ... now being manufactured, how can one expect to [find Filipinos in countries to be occupied and oppressed by present or future generations]?" he wonders.

The new version, he says, is made of cheap plastic. "I can only imagine the appearance of players using this kind of inferior-type materials. A sudden gust of wind... will readily 'annihilate' the game, toppling everything."

Simon says whoever owns the rights to manufacture the GG, "proudly a product of Filipino ingenuity," should redesign the game and "do justice to its creation. I hope this is not a reflection of the current state of the Filipino's sense of patriotism."

Feedback

It seems many people share our sentiments about the setup in our airports.

Reader Pepe Velasco said, "I felt good leaving home/ someone who is also vacationing/ why the efficient taxi system implemented in the domestic airport is not being implemented in the Centennial airport.

"Many times I have to wait for an hour or longer to get a taxi (presumably) at the departure area of international airports when arrival taxis are all over all. Even if I arrive ahead of the others, it is first-to-all, [people jostling to get ahead of the rest, with taxis stopping anywhere there passenger wants to get off]. Some taxi also refuse to take you for various reasons.

"The coupon taxis are very expensive. They are clean, comfortable and hot, but expensive. Can't the Centennial Airport management do something about this? What's the complaint...?"

Ed T. Bonifacio said, "Our word again is up for our [at the domestic airport]. It's relatively efficient. That's why given the choice, I'd take Cebu Pacific or Air Phil just because of the terminal."

Both Velasco and Bonifacio will be happy to know that something is being done about the transport system in the other airports.

Mike G. Tiu, Manila International Airport Authority general manager, wrote to say "we are working in the way to bringing more services to the other terminals."

He said, "We are targeting by the last quarter of this year to provide the airport with metered taxis to give passengers [an] alternative service."

The efficient system in the domestic airport, he said, would also be implemented at the two international terminals "in line with our commitment to provide security, safety, comfort and convenience" to travelers.

Send letters to The Consumer, Lifestyle Section, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Makati-Sta. Ana Sts., Makati City; or e-mail lbolido@inquirer.com.ph

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COOKING CLASSES

From Korean cooking to rice toppings

THE REGGIE AMPIAN SCHOOL OF Culinary Arts offers the following classes:

Sept. 7—Korean Fit: Bulto Quin (Barbecued all-time), Korean Barbecue (pork, beef, chicken, seafood), Glass Noodles, Gang Chae (Korean-style stir-fried noodles), mixed vegetables.

Sept. 8—Breakfast Buffet '07 (special class, all users): Carrot Muffins with Cream Cheese Icing, Bran-crushed Salmon with Cucumber Cream and Seafood Omelette and Popovers, Maple Chicken with Fluffy Pancakes, Fruitty Bagel with Flavored Mascarpone and Syrups, Breakfast Steaks with Double Toasts and Eggs Carbonara, Fruit Pudding.

Sept. 12—Pinoy Pilipinas: Tabang Talangka Pecks with Mixed Seafood and Asian Vegetables, Adobo sa Puti (Milk with Stewed Banana Blossom and Lukanon Relish, Bicol Express, Pecks with Caramelized Shallots in Lemon Soy Dressing, Capsicum Alfredo and Scallion Pecks, Asian a la Carbona Pecks with Taro-dipped Fried Bananas.

Sept. 13—Northwest Resist Class: Fried Fruit and Adobo Pecks with Chicharon Chips and Salted Egg Relish, Glamorizing Sugar and Grits with Bagoong Rice, Tilapia with Shrimp Pecks-stewed Tomatoes and Caramelized Onions and Tilapia Stew, Whipping Tadyang sa Baka with Pandan Rice, Bolelo Steak with Fried Bubble Rice and Blackcurrant Gravy with Spring Vegetables.

Mrs. Gina schedules are out for September-October. Call 9289096, 9273008 or 6320362.

Cooking and baking classes

Beverly's Cooking School is all offer cooking and baking classes starting Sept. 8.

Gourmet dishes like roast duck with poultry and shellfish caught in part of a favorite sauces on Sept. 8. Fritters for potluck such as roast pork with coffee mushroom glaze and baked catch of lunch with fried and sun pilaf will be featured Sept. 15.

Baking classes featuring Christmas giveaways such as chocolate espresso bars, macadamia nut bars in chocolate crust will be covered Sept. 12 while pecan nuts cake, brownies with duly of herbs and other saleable goodies will be featured Sept. 19.

Bread making from scratch, including pizzas bread with mushroom, cheese and tomato, bread and other holiday breads, will be taught Sept. 27.

Beverly's School is in San Marcelo, Quezon City, is owned by culinary expert and cookbook author Beverly Stevens. Call 724 7733 and 4167968.

Rice toppings

Hapa Kitchen combines new with favorite home processed meats in Flavored Rice & Meat Toppings Sept. 6, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Featured are cutaneous meats like garlic rice, vegetable rice, adobo rice, and others are with preservative-free meats such as tuna rice, swine, cutaneous rice, and crispy roasted beef.

Thousands of Bakery Production will be offered Sept. 11-14, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. It covers baking techniques including the use of ready mixes, yeast, bread, quick breads, pies, cookies and cakes. Participants each get a free baking workbook.

Chinese Cooking, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Sept. 15, will cover Peru Tim, Gourmet Lumpia, siomai, Hunan, Pork Spareribs with Black Bean Chinese Stuffed Chicken, almond jelly.

Mexican Desserts, Sept. 15, 2-5 p.m., will include flaunted, Polvorones, Besos de Moyolet, Lemon Meringue Pie with Chocolate Custard as bonus.

Basic Culinary, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. on Sept. 18-21, is for anyone who wants to develop basic cooking skills. Each class get a free cookbook.

Where: Beverly's Secrets Function Room at 6/F Library Building, A. Arnaiz Ave. (formerly Pasay Road), Makati. 8921185, 8926511 local. 108; e-mail mbeverly@edsamail.com.ph.

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CAFÉ YSABEL RESTAURANT
459 F. Guevarra Street, San Juan, Metro Manila
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TOP CULINARY SCHOOL: PHILIPPINE BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2006

SEPTEMBER SCHEDULE
RECREATIONAL and ONE-DAY BUSINESS CLASS

COOKING CLASSES

September 06, Tuesday - HOMEMADE BOHEMIAN STYLE: Chef Jose will teach bottled goodies that are perfect for Christmas giveaways. Recipes include Pastrami-ca, Salsa, Tender Chicken Bbq, Chunky Pesto, Salad Dressing. Edible tin bottles and many more. Cafe is requiring class included for P1,500.00 including all ingredients from 9:00 - 1:00 p.m. NEW CLASS!

September 07, Wednesday - CHICKEN 4 WAYS: Asian Chef Lee prepares my specialty Chicken Dishes, each one will teach us more flavor in cooking. Recipes are Mushroom & Anchovy Lumpiang, Grilled Chicken & Scallop Salad, Vegetable Tempe Chopped Asparagus, Chicken Tomato & Spaghetti also Lemonade. Fee P1,500 from 9:00 - 1:00 p.m. NEW CLASS!

September 08, Thursday - MEAT BALLS THAT RULES!: Calling all meat lovers... Time to explore the infinite possibilities of this versatile ingredient. In this class Chef Chito will teach you Beef Bergamot, Asian Beef Meatballs, Pork Meatballs with Mushroom Sauce, Pork Meatballs Caldereta, Chicken Meatballs Pinoy Style, Vegetarian Style Meatballs and Meatball with Sauce. Fee P1,400.00 including all ingredients from 9:00 - 1:00 p.m. NEW CLASS!

September 11, Sunday - CATERING AND ENTERTAINING SPECIALS: Let Chef Cito teach you recipes that can be used for Catering events and parties. Recipes include Pickled Salad, Mixed Mushroom Sauce, Chicken Cordon Bleu, Chicken Galantina, Pork Galantina, Pork Pate, Chicken Pate, Chicken Liver Pate, Pork Roast Tenderloin and Roast Chicken and Vegetables. Fee P1,500.00 including all ingredients from 9:00 - 1:00 p.m. NEW CLASS!

September 12, Thursday - ANYONE LOVE FOR LUNCEON PARTY: Lunch Specials Open for a Luncheon Party also recipes with the demonstration of Chef Jose Sanchez, cupcake of Sweetheart Cakes. The recipes are Creamed Potato Lasagna, Ratatouille, Spicy Garlic Mushroom Tapenade, Tomato Mushroom au Gratin, Cheesy Tomato Bruschetta, Mexican Chicken Pie, Pork Tenderloin Stroganoff, Chicken Cordon Bleu, Chicken Galantina and Pate. Fee P1,500.00 including all ingredients from 9:00 - 1:00 p.m. NEW CLASS!

September 13, Thursday - CHICKEN 4 WAYS: Asian Chef Lee prepares my specialty Chicken Dishes, each one will teach us more flavor in cooking. Recipes are Mushroom & Anchovy Lumpiang, Grilled Chicken & Scallop Salad, Vegetable Tempe Chopped Asparagus, Chicken Tomato & Spaghetti also Lemonade. Fee P1,500 from 9:00 - 1:00 p.m. NEW CLASS!

September 14, Friday - ASIAN CHRISTMAS COOKING: Starters to be cooking and serving from our Salad and Pastry Chef Chef Jose. The recipes include Corn Soup, Classic Vinaigrette, Chicken Asian Salad with Lemon Herb Dressing, Chicken Tempura Rice and Breakfast Bananas for P1,500.00 including all ingredients from 9:00 - 1:00 p.m. NEW CLASS!

September 15, Saturday - ROMANTIC DINNER FOR TWO: Have a special Chef's Class with Lunch and this one of a kind special that will be perfect for Christmas get together. Recipes include Oyster Cappelletti, Rosemary Mango Caramel Lamp, Marmalade Winter Salad, Mousse Dessert. Chef Chito Contains to Chit and Chance Log for P1,500.00 including all ingredients from 9:00 - 1:00 p.m.

September 16, Sunday - CATERING AND ENTERTAINING SPECIALS: Chef Jose will teach you recipes that can be used for Catering events and parties. Recipes include Pickled Salad, Mixed Mushroom Sauce, Chicken Cordon Bleu, Chicken Galantina, Pork Galantina, Pork Pate, Chicken Liver Pate, Pork Roast Tenderloin and Roast Chicken and Vegetables. Fee P1,500.00 including all ingredients from 9:00 - 1:00 p.m.

September 18, Tuesday - EASY COCKTAILS AND FIRST COURSES PART 1: Simple and easy to do cocktails and tasty dishes with a demonstration by Chef Jessie Sanchez. The recipes are Basil Vinaigrette Crabs, Mushrooms, Cocktail Salad, Basil Vinaigrette Shrimp Cocktail, Mushroom Cocktail, Tomato Mushroom Cocktail, Tuna Cocktail, Shrimp Cocktail, Tuna Cocktail, Vegetable Cocktail and Salmon Cocktail for only P1,200 including all ingredients from 9:00 - 1:00 p.m. NEW CLASS!

September 22, Saturday - GIFTS FROM THE KITCHEN: Chef Jessie prepares an array of Holiday gifts from friends with appreciate and that are easy to prepare's even for the novice to consider this class. Classes that will start at 9:00 a.m. Contact Jessie Cruz, Grilled White Onions, Mushroom Chicken, Bulong in Olive oil and chicken. Fee P1,500.00 from 9:00 - 1:00 p.m. Recipes include all ingredients.

September 23, Sunday - ASIAN FOOD & HEALTHY EATING: Delicious and healthy meals will be the theme of this class. Chef Jessie will teach you Asian Chicken Salad, Fish Fillet with Mixed Vegetables, White Salmon Chicken, Steak and White Healthy Chicken, Smoked Salmon Pate, Mushroom Pate, Beef Steak and Tomatoes Beef Tapenade for P1,500.00 including all ingredients from 9:00 - 1:00 p.m.

BAKING CLASSES

September 01, Saturday - CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS: This class is intended for non-professionals to create a dazzling chocolate dessert. Chef Chitoni Chang Li is well known pastry chef specializes this Christmas Chocolate Log, Fudge Chocolate Cake, Chocolate Mint Cake, Pistachio Chocolate Cake, Chocolate Mousse Cake

4 ADD the coconut milk, stirring constantly.

5 BRING to a boil, then lower heat. Continue cooking until slightly thickened. Adjust seasoning by adding fish sauce, dried bell pepper cubes and lemon grass. Stir once in a while to prevent burning.

6 Transfer the cooking mixture into the ramekins and add the bell peppers as you alternate the layers.

3 ADD the eggplant, stir and cook for 10 minutes.

The Pinoy paella

Text by Virgie Rigo-Reyes
Photos by Jim Gaius Punzalan

IF PAELLA IS FOR SPAIN, Bringhe is for the Philippines.

Indeed, Bringhe has become the local counterpart of the famed Spanish paella. Like the paella, it is cooked with rice, although the sticky variety or malagkit is used.

It has chicken, pork and vegetables cooked in coconut milk. Instead of the privey saffron the ripemarde use for paella, turmeric (or dilaw) is added to Bringhe to give it a greenish-yellow color and distinctive flavor.

This mouth-watering Pampanga dish is a popular offering in most Pinoy festive occasions. It is prepared with different ingredients to give it a unique taste.

Some put chicken liver and gizzard, while others add Vienna sausage, peanuts, raisins, carrots or peas. (What gets into the dish seems to depend on the mood and taste of the cook.)

Bringhe is traditionally cooked in banana leaves, so the rice does not stick to the pan. The leaves also give it a special aroma.

Bringhe is usually served on the table with the banana leaves.

Here is a special version of Bringhe from Jun Mendoza, chef instructor of the American Hospitality Academy Philippines (tels. 892-7372 and 892-7983), the first American culinary school in the country.

Mendoza's Bringhe was taken from the recently launched book "Foodlover and Flavors: Inside the Southeast Asian Kitchen."

The latest project of the publishing and design group ArtsEat Asia, the book features recipes and contributions from 14 international culinary experts and food writers from the region. Sweets lord columnist Micky Fenix wrote the portion on the Philippines, including the traditional Bringhe.

"Bringhe is such a rich concoction of glutinous rice and turmeric flavored chicken steamed in banana leaves," says Mendoza. "Wal, in this recipe, we try to present it in a unique, classy way. We call it noveria Pinoy cuisine. We use the traditional ingredients but we get rid of the banana leaves."

Mendoza serves and arranges Bringhe on individual platters with all the garnishing you can imagine to make it visually more appetizing and tempting.

The result is a mound of lovely gold-hued rice with tender chicken and topped with colorful vegetables.

Ingredients:

1 cup malagkit rice
600 ml coconut milk, freshly squeezed
30 ml cooking oil
3 g garlic, minced
50 g onions, chopped
½ pc chicken cube
30 ml patis (fish sauce)
20 g luyang dilaw (turmeric juice)
1 pc banana leaves
100 g bell pepper, red green
pinch of ground black pepper
lemon grass, crushed

Garnish:

2 pc hard-boiled eggs, sliced
chopped tomatoes

For suggestions, e-mail the author at rbgcuisine@superair.com.ph.

2 HEAT oil in saucepan. Sauté garlic and onions over high heat. Add chicken pieces and cook until chicken is slightly browned. Add patis, achuete, dilaw and water. Simmer.

1 CLEAN eggplant, soaking and draining the grains thrice. Set aside.

7 ADD Bringhe, pressing it firmly into the mold...

8 REMOVE rice and again top with bell pepper.

9 GARNISH with hard-boiled egg, chopped tomatoes and spring onions.

10 NICELY plated Bringhe.

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Taste of Iloilo in Manila

FRESHA BRINGS TO MANILA the ambiance of lazy Sunday lunches in the beaches of Iloilo.

Following the success of its stall in Greenbelt, is set up its first stand-alone restaurant along Katipunan Avenue, and its stall outlet at the 2/L of Promenade, Greenhills.

Fresha's simple grilled selections use the freshest ingredients and choice spices.

Bestsellers include Grilled Seafajas with Lemon Butter Sauce, Baked Dynamo with Tres Cheese Stuffing, Giant Stuffed Squid, Adobadong Hito, and its signature dish, Grilled Mixtapa (Oysters Mangrove Bouquet).

The restaurant also offers non-seafood choices like Chicken Inasal, Mango Salad with Red Eggs and Tomatoes, Lato Leaves from Palawan), Barbie Baboy in Lampa.

The restaurant is run by Bonggo chef Pauline Dorinda Reinoso, a graduate of the Culinary Institute of America and the Institute of Culinary Education in Manhattan, New York.

Fresha showcases the best of Iloilo's culinary traditions.

OYSTERS with Lemon Butter and Garlic

GRILLED Mixtapa (Snapper)

LIFESTYLE

Bless this homecooking

SAKE-KAPE
Ramen ng Roka.

REMEMBER WHEN we all looked forward to dinner in Pampanga? All dishes, no matter how simple, always had that special flavor.

You don't have to travel all the way to Pampanga or wait for the annual fiesta to taste those sumptuous cooking from-scratch dishes again.

Mongpo just opened in the new Trinoma Mall on North Avenue in QC. The restaurant offers irresistibly delicious lutong bahay Pampanguan food similar to the spread of fiestas.

Longos, one of Mongpo's best bestsellers, is cooked in three different ways—Longos with Mechoacan (P210), Longos Estup (P140) and Longos Calderon (P145).

Bestsellers include Tortang Talong with Pork Giniling (P90), Kinilaw Pugo Bicolano (P120), Crispy Dory (P180) and Sisig at Mole (a Kapampangan specialty named after the grated old lady

SHIRLY CH

BPI Celebrating 156 Years of Banking Excellence

The BPI Network: Creating Customer Touch Points to Suit Your Lifestyle

Over the years, Bank of the Philippine Islands has been designing and redesigning its network to meet the changing times and the evolving lifestyles of its customers.

From bank-and-teller to smart, from person-to-person to electronic, from ATM to mobile banking, BPI offers its clients a vast array of customer touch points to make their banking as convenient as possible. Today, as BPI turns 156, it boasts of over 800 branches, more than 1,400 ATMs, 9,000 point-of-sale terminals over a 24/7 Call Center, tied with its Express Phone, Express Online and Express Mobile, every landline, PC and cellphone is now part of the BPI network.

While its innovations in electronic banking may have been more noticeable, BPI has also made significant changes in its branch network – in location, in special services for unique target markets and in the facilities you'll find within the branch.

BPI pioneered the branch in the mall, which caters to individuals who are too busy to the office on weekdays and who spend their weekends or after-office hours shopping. These mall-based outlets called BPI Express Banking Centers (EBC) allow shoppers to open an Express Teller account and get the ATM card in 20 minutes. The EBC also handles applications for BPI credit cards, auto and housing loans, and Express Cash.

Even BPI's regular branches, although seemingly uniform in its offerings, provide more than general banking services. Some of them are specially designed to handle corporate requirements while others cater to individuals with sophisticated financial and investment needs. Still, others will provide expertise in handling the needs of overseas Filipinos and their families.

But there's more. Last year, BPI started rolling out branches called BPI Express, catering to individuals who want fast, friendly services for their simple routine transactions and basic banking needs. The branch offers you complete electronic banking channels – ATM, phone and online banking – and an Express Service Counselor to touch and assist you in completing your transactions using these channels. Tellers are also on hand, as well as Express Sales Counselors to answer your queries and offer financial advice.

For its innovative concept, the BPI Express branch won the Branch Transformation Project of the Year at the 2007 Banker Technology Awards. The award, given by the premier financial publication, The Banker, annually cites the best banking practices and innovations worldwide. BPI Express earned this distinction among other international banks.

Truly, banking has gone a long way with BPI's innovations in bank customer touch points. You can expect nothing less from a bank that takes to heart its commitment to being its customers' partner.

BPI@156
We'll take you further.

Another innovation from the Bank of the Philippine Islands

BPI EXPRESS: The Friendly Place to Bank

BPI Express branches offer teller-assisted transactions, self-service banking and financial advice. It won the Branch Transformation Project of the Year at the 2007 Banker Technology Awards.

Time. Somehow there's never enough. As everyone knows, time is money, and minutes matter. So the last thing you want is to spend time on routine tasks like banking. Just thinking about the lines – from the payday ATM rush to the long wait for the teller – can be stressful.

Even more stressful is not knowing how to do your transactions using the phone or the computer at the bank – it makes you wish someone took the time to help you figure things out. And when you want to consult about getting a loan or financial advice, you feel like everyone's listening in on what you're saying – the bank just doesn't seem private enough to talk about such matters.

But fret no more. Bank of the Philippine Islands has come up with a friendly solution—its leanest branch type called BPI Express, now in more locations nationwide.

When you enter a BPI Express branch, you are immediately greeted by its friendly, clean and modern interior design.

It's a bank that's adapted for today's hurried lifestyle.

From the moment you enter the stylish, not-so-bank-looking bank, you notice the difference. The sunny decor, relaxed yet fast-moving mood and even the helpful, friendly BPI Express Counselors make it feel more like a boutique than a bank.

The BPI Express consultation area is designed to facilitate discussions with clients among private and comfortable

Basic transactions are quick and easy with the BPI Express Electronic Banking zone.

There you'll find BPI Express Teller ATMs, a phone for BPI Express Phone and a computer to access BPI Express Online. Plus, a BPI Express Services Counselor is there to help you every step of the way. Once you learn how to do it, you can do your banking from the comfort of your home or your office.

BPI Express has friendly tellers on hand for your other transactions.

BPI Express caters to simple routine transactions, so lines at the tellers are short. Think of the whole branch as a supermarket Express Lane - a fast lane designed to move you through quickly and more pleasantly.

But the "Express" isn't just about speed; it's also about expression. Just tell us what you need, and we'll help you find it – not standing at a counter, but in the privacy and comfort of a personal workstation. Here, BPI Express Sales Counselors can give you simple, practical advice on loans, investments, financial planning and other money matters.

Our tellers are ready to assist you with your simple, routine transactions. That's why lines are shorter and transactions are faster.

BPI Express offers private financial consultations.

So, if you want to have more control over your time and get friendly, fast service, come and visit the nearest BPI Express branch. You might just be surprised at how quick — and pleasant your banking experience could be.

BPI Express Service Counselors are on hand to assist you about phone and online banking.

BPI Express branches: METRO MANILA: Ayala Ave. - Las Piñas - Ayala Mall - Fronteras Drive, Ortigas - A. Bonifacio - Makati - G. Araneta Ave. - Araneta - Espana - Blumentritt - G. Araneta Avenue - Hemady Place - Libis, QC - J.P. Rizal - San Miguel - Kamias - Laong Laan - Medical Plaza - Makati - Muñoz Market - President Ave. - Pasay - Taft - Quezon Ave. - D. Tuazon - Roxas Blvd. - Araneta Cubao - Santolan - Sta. Mesa - Sucat - Alabang Mall - Tiaong - Las Piñas - Tarlac - El Bethel Avenue - Batangas - Rizal St. - PROVINCES: Davao - Bacolod - Dumaguete - Iloilo - MacArthur - Tuguegarao - Tabaco - Tagbilaran - Cebu - Cebu - SOON TO OPEN: Alabang - Cavite - Pasay - Sta. Rosa - Sta. Mesa - McArthur Highway - Port Area - Port Area - Port Area

A diario novela by CARLO J. CAPARAS

To have and to hold

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A. UPIN

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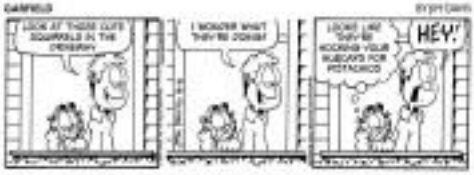

PUGAD BABOY

KIKO MACHINE

DAILY CROSSWORD

HOROSCOPE

ATOMO AND WEBOY

CONCEPTIS SU DOKO

Conceptis Sudoku — by Dave Green

	5			3			7	
4			2	8	9			6
		5		2		7		
	2	6				4	1	
		8		6		9		
9			1	5	7			3
	6			4			8	

Difficulty Level ★★★

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKO

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.

Tips and programs at www.sudoku.com

COUNTRY COOKING
Micky Fenix

Tasting Cebu once again

UNLESS I GO TO A tennis or perchance to do research, the cuisine of the place unfolds very slowly. Sometimes it takes years.

Cebu cooking was introduced to me during my early working years by my boss in a broadcast company, Heather Bajarias. It was not in the island province but in her apartment in Quezon City.

She taught me how to eat *inasal* (style Guimaras) and *sweet tanigue* (mackerel) head cooked in *tinowa*, which is how Cebuanos call their lightly-sauced *sinigang*.

She made me a fan of *lechon* Cebu and every *tanguingue* ceviche she had to maximize up to her eyeballs. Her guinamos was easy by her mother from her hometown of Mandaue. I thought this fermented fish was more spectacular than the hugely advertised shrimp guinamos until I had a chance with it.

A SERVING of *tanigue barbecue tostado* at Binggay

She also gave me my first taste of dried dangit and she laughed when I rolled the side without the brown "pupu ears," my favorite side.

I went to Mandaue for her wedding. The day was like a fiesta. It was breakfast, by the way, during that visit and no one forced it prunge that we see Antolin. So we took two rest rooms, one a *tanguingue* and the other *ma cucumber*, or cantaloupe. There was also Joliet, a spaghetti with edible, greenish and wonderful. It made up for the fishy fabot we had during our last visit to the Talisay Arbor place.

Lechon would not figure too much during this visit. We have had our fill on many times during former visits. Those included rare Sundays at Talisay when *lechon* is sold by the kilo or on the pre-ament the restaurant wants to pay.

In Manila Sunset, we were given lechon with chicken mixed in as belly. It was also there where we tasted pig's stomach called *lengua*, skinned very well then stuffed with garlic, onions, tomatoes, leeks and scallions then fried.

Sutukil

If a general grouping of Cebu cooking were to be done, *sutukil* would be it. That is short for *sugba, tula* and *kilaw* grilled, poached soup and vinegar-cured.

The *sugba* part are the many barbecue places in the city and outlying areas. My first experience was at the downtown Lantaw, rows of stalls that barbecued anything—seafood, chicken and its spare parts, pork.

A VARIETY breakfast at Binggay of *barbacoa* and *sutukil* with a serve of sea cucumber, mackerel and fried *tinowa*(?)

The night part on this visit was at Parr'i Elelle where we partook of the most delicious variety of the barbecues. It was the seasoned staples I've ever had. We once more had *tinowa*, this time the head of tuanon (Spanish jack).

The new thing learned on this visit was the dipping sauce Cebuanos favored with their seafood and roughs. It had sliced green tomatoes and Batangas onions and, mixed according to taste, vinegar, soy sauce and calamansi juice.

We were treated to a bit of heritage when Mendoza Encarnacion, Cebu resident and friend, brought us to Argao, about two hours from the city. I remembered how my Cebuano boss also brought me there for some beach time and my first taste of *anos* ceviche sold in bottles by fishermen.

I'm glad Argao has a heritage activist, Alex Gonzales, who works to preserve not only the *ati-ati*, a kind of *salot*, but also the baroque church of St. Michael and its convent. On Cana Road and Pantry Road. I'm sure he is as functional as I am. Did the parish priest pulverized gold the saints or was that after?

We ate at Alex Grill, owned by Alex, where we tasted tanguigue kinilaw, boiled white shrimps and the house version of *bistek* or braised pork. Succulent mangos in fried oat streusel and sinugba. It had sliced green tomatoes and Batangas onions and, mixed according to taste, vinegar, soy sauce and calamansi juice.

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On the way back, it was difficult to escape the call of pork so we stopped by Carcar. At the stall of Ofil, we bought *chicharon* or pork crackling by the pesos.

We remembered that on a previous visit we passed by the town of Liloan where we also bought their version of *chicharon*.

Because every Cebu visit has given me a broader view of the cooking, I am excited about the next visit, whenever that will be.

E-mail the author at pinoyfood@yahoo.com

FISH sinugba including the *barracuda* belly at Parr 'i' Elelle

European nouvelle cuisine in Asian setting

TICKED AWAY IN A TREE-lined section of San Juan, is Dulan.

With its intricately-carved antique door and embroidered ceilings garlanded by elaborate lantern-work handcrafted by Filipino artisans, the Dulan dwell's colonial heritage of solid stone seems to be a place for traditional cooking.

The restaurant, in opposition of nouvelle cuisine, serves European food in an Asian setting.

A bar of antique hardwood has a concrete inlayed with ebony and ivory patterns. As the centre are lamps and buffet tables with wings of ebony and lame with eyes of strawberry, peridot and ruby.

Dining tables are handcrafted from aged nanra, mahogany and other hardwood. The centerpiece of a magnificent 12-seater was an ornate door from India.

A dinner finds copper chafing dishes; blown glass chandeliers; Balinese carvings; and jars, images and artifacts from China, Tibet and Nepal, as well as paintings of Filipino masters.

The seamless fusion of food and art is the work of siblings Jay Javier and publisher Rhubina and master chef Tony Aguilar.

"We wanted to show the Philippines something new," says Rhubina.

They also have a striking constellation to eldest Imelda or Freddie Aguilar, the singer, to accompany themed chef. He is home after 16 years as a master chef in Sweden.

YEGGIS Salad

Pictures by Nestor Apostol

The menu Dulan, the siblings explain, is 'Income for Asia'.

A great deal of thought went into the selection and pricing of items on the menu. Popular dishes include the Chesapeake Black (squirrel from France, oven baked in Asian spices with a dash of truffles aioli), Iroms (grilled orange flavored fillet mignon in marsala sauce, served with zucchini and tomatoes in olive oil); and Achilles (grilled lamb in marinated in herbs and oranges, served with ratatouille, olives and feta cheese with an undertone of marsala wine sauce).

An array of soups, salads and appetizers is available while starters and casserole entrees and pasta for dessert.

The owners usually recommend Miss Reverea Cabrieres Asparagus al' the Chilean Isabel Vina Reserva to accompany the main meals. But aside from lots of wines and spirits, as well as premium beers, is also available.

After the meal, guests are encouraged to view the displayed artwork. A resource is at hand to answer questions.

Dulan has also catered services at the Asian Art Museum, lunches, art exhibits, book launches and even romantic meetings. An exclusive mezzanine area is available for guests who require privacy.

On Fridays, some of the country's most respected artists and promising new talents hold sketching sessions at the third level function hall.

Dulan is on No. 3 General de Jesus cor. Jose Abad Santos Sts., Little Baguio, San Juan. It is open for lunch and dinner. Call 7250696.

SEAFOOD Pasta

FANCIFULLY WHEN YOU WANT THEM Enjoy pancakes any time of the day at Heaven 'N Eggs, Ramoroad City. This bright and colorful restaurant's all-day menu also includes omelettes, just as you like 'em. The Peanut Banana and Jelly Pancake Stack dessert is big enough for two. It has five layers of soft pancake, bathed in new kinds of peanut butter, freshly ground peanuts and a brownie's pet cookie. The Banana Foster Pancake has caramelized bananas, walnuts, rum and cinnamon, while the Dulce de Leche Pancake has sweet flan. Call 9111117 or text 09179BEWCITY.

SAVAGE Sushi offers boats meals that include miso soup, gohan and fresh fruits with your choice of grilled salmon, chicken *katsuki* and beef *yakiniku*. There's the Salsa Dulan Boats (chunks grilled *shiitake shitpuki*, *kabocha* and vegetable) with a Salsa Suki brancha or at Crescent West Park, The Fort and SM Mall of Asia. Call BOHEM!.

CABALEN'S Fried Bangus with Mango Salad

DINING OUT

Buffet treat for grandparents

THIS GRANDPARENTS DAY, treat Lolo and Lola to Cabalen's exceptional buffet, with over 80 dishes to choose from at a very affordable rate all-you-can price.

Specialties include Kilawin Kapampangan Boodong, Grilled Liempo with Chicken, Cabalen Mixiron, Adobong Tamarind, Embalakang Pako, Fried Bangus with Mango Salad and, for those with a sweet tooth, the Black Rice Kakanin. Cabalen's Pork is Pinoy Premium Lomo Lobo and Lolot is also sourcing pure-bred Pinoy Lite products. Cabalen gift certificates and Pinoy deli items. Cabalen Restaurants are at Ever Commonwealth, 3rd Mega mall, Robinson's Place Manila, SM North Edsa, Robinson's Starmills Pampanga, SM Clark, Festival Supermall, Sta. Lucia Grand Mall, Trinoma and Glorietta 3. Call 3720616 or 9928864 for reservations or 9186622 for catering services.

SUPER BOWL OF CHINA Festival Mall Alabang offers Super Chinese foods like Hainanese Pinoy merienda with a Chinese twist. Have the all-you-can snack buffet for P128 per person. The promo features a noodle dish, soups, dim sum, congee and entrees with a single serving of each item serviceable. It is available 2:30-5:30 p.m., Monday-Saturday. The Super Chinese Fiesta Merienda proves is available at P288. It exclusively at Super Bowl of China Festival Mall Alabang.

THE BELLEVUE HOTEL with the Department of Tourism Region 6 headed by director Ma. San Juan present crabs at Dondonggo, Sept. 7-9. The hotel's Café D'Bone features guest chef from Zamboanga who will showcase her specialty dishes such as Curacha Crabs and Indian Spiders for P795+. A special treat also awaits grandparents on Sept. 9. Call 7718181.

CASA ARMAS, the popular Spanish restaurant, is now offering authentic Jalisco fare. Jamon de Jalisco has a distinctive quality. It is produced in Jalisco, home of good natured people and fine wines, in Mexico, a province of Andalucia, Spain. At Casa Armas, Jamon de Jalisco is served with bread as a delicious appetizer worth Pesos or P57+, it is the newest addition to the restaurant's wide tapas collection and can be enjoyed year round. A serving can be shared by two to three people. Call 8813800, The Podium, 8th Floor, Joplin Street, Mandaluyong or 7213000, Greenbelt branch.

ALBA RESTAURANT has added new dishes to its 90 tapas cantonment cuisine chart. Recently added to the menu are the Mejillones de Vieja al vino rojo and the sea food special Arroz Negro al Tinta. Wine called tapas are Tortilla Catalana, Tostadas, Tomate and Mahi Mahi Fresco. Alba Restaurant is also introducing Paella combinacion, which includes boneless pieces of chicken, pork, shrimp and others. Call 8966900-01, 8884990, 829 16 12, 8767 128, 411 0100, 823 23 16-17.

Will deliver desserts

CLOCKWISE from top left: Chocolate Lollipop, Petit Mont Blanc and Passion Fruit and Banana Martini

MACARON Coffee Bean

CREME Brulee infused with Japanese green tea, chocolate ice cream with warm chocolate fudge drizzle and Tiramisu

IT IS NEWSWORTHY TIME WITH "all desserts," which was what Diamond Hotel offered recently when it sent tickets to three managers of Dessert Courtyard: The Ultimate Cake & Dessert Gallery at The Loft at Mandaluyong in Kirkwell Center.

Starting Sept. 15, the Diamond Hotel Dessert Station will be available for setting up in your home or any party venue for buffet or a la carte selections of sweet treats (minimum order of P1,200, please).

And call 5283000 and the hotel catering staff will show up at your door with a choice of sweets that runs the gamut: creations of award-winning pastry chef Peng Kok Kuong.

CHUCK that carton of ice cream from the freezer, pick up the phone and ask pronto. Starting Sept. 15, Diamond Hotel will deliver desserts to your door.

TIRAMISU

SINGAPORESIN pastry chef Peng Kok Kuong introduces his concoctions

Cecile Ang, the hotel's young and resilient president, has tapped the equally young Singaporean dessert wizard to update Diamond's dessert selections.

Dessert Counter entered the protest opportunity by introducing its concoctions and confections to Filipinos.

The full-course dessert dining, which translated Embassy-for-Higher Education presented a collection of classic pastries and other temptations that never go steadily running in their waves rich in flavor.

Karen could not help but push over each course which was complemented with champagne and relaxing music.

They started with Green Lime Relish Wedge Cheesecake and linked Pear Tart. They were followed by Caramel Chocolate Lollipop, Petit Mont Blanc and Passion Fruit and Banana Martini.

The final course for me and Go Bernie, a dark chocolate mousse with almond meringue and hazelnut crisps, followed by Saffron Irish

MONT Blanc

Coffee.

DIAMOND is no good bet to dessert-crave to the Diamonds at Rockwell Center for the hotel's custom dessert store.

Simply delicious homecooking

BIBINGKA with salted egg and pandan jam

PUTONG Pakwan

From page D3

who popularized it to Ina Fernando. Pon pangan).

For food-weather days, try soup dishes "Mayaling Araw." Binigang na Baka (P390), binigang sa Ulo ng Salmon at Miso (P370), binigang na Kagge at Gamay (P260) together with Mangoes lemon specialties.

Putong Bulacan is a delightful concoction of Putong Pilanok, Lumpiang Sariwa, Lechon Kawali, Garlic Pugo, Putong Tilapia, Penang Rice and a variety of sauces (CHOP CHOP).

Inihaw Pyesta, Mangan's bestseller, is easy to satisfy with its Inihaw na Lechon, Chicken BBQ, Alabos na Hipon, Inihaw na Bangus, Inihaw na Tulingi with Buong Hipon (a must to all Kapampangan steamed vegetables), Inihaw na Talong, Ordeva ng Hilaw na (Mantasa leaves) and their complement sinasawsaw.

After a satisfying meal, relief before easy to close down for by ordering Napapanahong Prutas—a variety of fruits in season served on a platter.

Mangan's source of pride is the culinary expertise of its chef. With Master Silversmith at the helm, food lovers are assured that only the best Kapampangan dishes are served in all of Clarkfield.

Mangan will open a branch soon at SM Mall of Asia. Call Mangan Robinson

SEAFOOD Paella Negra

DARAK na Bangus

Rice Meals (4634704, 4636203); Ebenezer 1 (8323843, 8919704); Robinsons Galleria (6304120, 6674464); SM City North Edsa (9286306, 9284695); SM City Pampanga (645-9109 to 9); and Tri-Bruna (7107790, 8360991).

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Ernesto C. Velarde

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Up Dharma, up!

UP DHARMA DOWN: "Guru-defying."

THE BUZZ ON UP DHARMA DOWN as one of the most interesting bands in the city has caught global attention.

A recent story on the Time Magazine CNN website, titled "The Rise of Dharma," noted that the gossip-worthy and hedboard player Jomi Miller, 22, guitarist Gachoo Tañedo, 22, bassist Paul Sup, 27, and drummer Ian Maysa, 22—misunderstood from among local bands and deserves to be heard around the world.

The story read in part: "Head out most nights in Metro Manila and you'll be spoiled for original live sound, be it R&B, indie pop, electro fusion or punk. In a scene this vibrant, it's hard for any act in the above the chatter. But Up Dharma Down might just be doing so. Beloved of an ensuing fans and chin-stroking critics alike, this genre-defying quartet was propped by DJ/C radio DJ Mark Coles last year as the Manila-based most likely to cross over to the lucrative Anglophone market of North American. Its internationally visible sound shouldn't come as a surprise to anyone who knows the entertainment (r) sprung from."

Miller and the band's management/record label boss, Ted Dalmacion, sounded underdated when asked how UBD developed its music.

"The Philippines is used to following global music trends," Dalmacion said. "[U]ntil bands operate out of all [kinds of] genres."

Miller explained: "We can balance and combine various influences. We'll get lumped if we get stuck within a certain style."

No diva in her blog site

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

CHECKING OUT MY FRIENDS' multiply.com sites is the highlight of my mornings. Before getting lost in the daily shuffle (or deal-ing with the lost!), it feels good to touch base with friends and see what they're up to.

I particularly enjoy going through the site of Louise Padilla, which she calls "In This Corner." There she sheds her shyness and even gamely poses for fingerpointing pix. Do it—and then sit down with pen for latest blog entry. (Sept. 5): "Give in, feel it back." I'm now a bit of women can relate to it as they also deal with the dieting of 'ears.

Confused

"I am confused. My brain, mouth and stomach are in continuance. They're out to get me. My brain is the only one making sense but I get ruined signals. It keeps saying, 'Give in... eat! You are IMRing and you have to satisfy your needs.'

"When I look in the mirror and see my image and how my hips have grown, it then says, 'Hold back... have some sense.'

Feedback

Gossip shows offend

From: Pepe Sandoro (joe_1957@xxx.com), address withheld upon request:

May we request the five big TV stations, ABS-CBN and GMA 7, to please move their gossip shows to time slots that don't disturb people taking naps during the weekends?

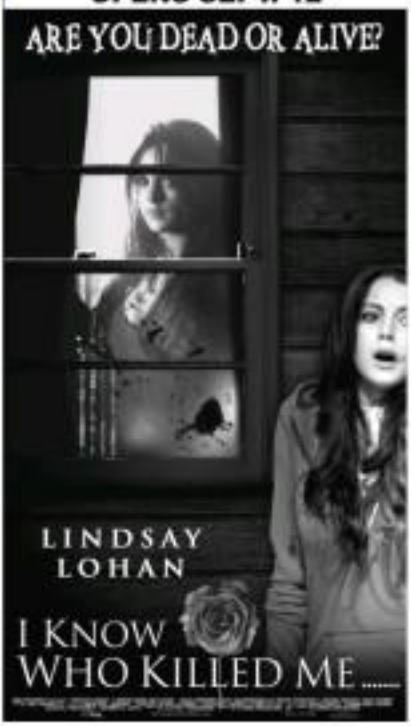
How about 10 A.M. to 12 P.M.?

Granted, these shows are big businesses, and their high ratings probably justify the blatant disrespect of God's day for the sake purpose of forcing workers such all that show biz crash. Please, can you just move these sinful programs so that people like us who need the weekend to recharge can get respite from our neighbors' otherwise loud TV sets?

Still times when, may we ask, has gossiping been relegated off the list of sins?

May we also request the MTRCB and the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines to please, please, step into this raunchy frenzy and save the populace before it's too late!

OPENS SEPT. 12



No diva in her blog site

Frontpage E1

remains, and go on a diet... you **** It can get pretty abusive and downright nasty, but mostly now I have spoken about certain

words and I have to be professional about this whole thing. Blame says... (let's see)

"So, in the next two weeks, I

can exercise a disaster but can't eat. Being deprived of food is no fun. But we do it because it's part of the job. It's many babae out there. And sadly enough, they always target the physical. They make nasty comments like she's so fat, so ehm, so ugly, so ang-itim-itim. It just goes on and on.

"The sarcastic friend uplifting comments. I guess you all know by now that most artists suffer from low-self esteem. The culprit? Being a people-pleaser. Applause and approval from fans excites us. Hindi 1 say more!"

Merry Martes

I texted Marian Rivera. "How dare you've made it big in Hollywood. I'm sure Mark Herras regrets letting you slip away!"

Their romance got frustrated because Marian found out that Mark was still in love with Angelyn Miranda or their ex. She figured his feelings for Angelyn "Yesterday Mark daughter!"

I could trust some revelations her now. But all that is behind his now. If Mark has any plans of trying to woo Marian back, he'd have to spruce up and wait for her cue.

MAR

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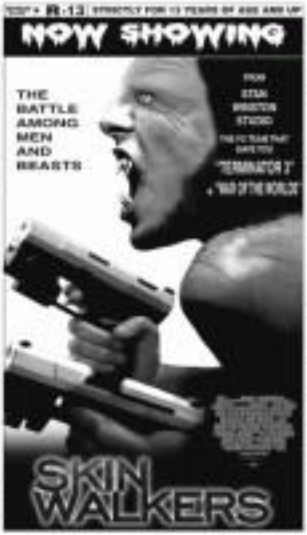

ZSAZSA PADILLA

No stopping Angel

Angel Locsin left for Hong Kong Tuesday to shoot another TV ad there. She just finished her acting workshop and is calling in don't her prayers with Pinoy Pamasa. The amount of cloudy margins ladies days can even stop Angel's flying highers and higher.

Guess list

•Guess who didn't TV host is the signed up as image model for the first company of the establishment she used to endorse even if her contract hadn't lapsed. Their were some legal impediments but the owners of the company just let her go. Endorsers like her are more beneficial than ex-endorsers because her ex-cost for suddenly shifting from one company to another is no impediment!

•Guess who this actor is. During a night out with a gay actress their friends dared them to kiss and they gamely did. The actor's gender has always been in question. After that night, all doubts were confirmed. Is his dress queen please finally erased?

Now showcase

UNTV 37's "Iba Ang Hollar" (6-E 6-7 p.m.) is considered to delivering impartial reporting of the day's events. It is anchored by two respected broadcasters in the industry—Jay Sonza and Candice Iyoni. Segments include Weekend Shine, Sports Discipline and Drive Shower. In her out to discredit the newscast of his ex, Abel Tiangco ("Tri Gma")?

I remember when Tim Jay told me the story behind the story of his split-up with Tita Mel. Sudden it is say that he's too much of a gentleman; that's why he just let Tita Mel do the talking when their breakup was hot news. It's up to the viewers to read between the lines!

Personal

Thanks so my dear "k Sister"

Cot Dribel, for the well-deserved Emmy nomination of "Bandila." A first for the country! That makes the Philippine Republic proud!

Belated birthday greetings to my friends from Bohol—Libby Sumagaysay, Rita Zilkens Sumgog and Daisy Arenas.

E-mail avalerie@philstar.net or lav@yahoo.com.

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

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GALLERIA

1 THE INVASION – THX	6 NANCY DREW
2 DISTURBIA	7 THE LAST LEGION EVAN ALMIGHTY
3 Indefense TRIBU	8 1408
4 DAYWATCH	9 A LOVE STORY
5 SKINWALKERS	10 CHOPSUEY

ERMITA

1 SKINWALKERS	
2 A LOVE STORY	5 NANCY DREW
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1 DISTURBIA	3 A LOVE STORY
2 NANCY DREW	4 CHOPSUEY

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1 NANCY DREW	3 SKINWALKERS
2 DAY WATCH	4 DISTURBIA

STA. ROSA

1 1408	
2 CASA	
3 THREE	
4 THE INVASION	

LIPA

1 RISE
2 RUSH HOUR 3
3 A LOVE STORY
4 EVAN ALMIGHTY

DASMARIÑAS

1 THE INVASION
2 1408
3 THREE
4 SINKING of JAPAN

IMUS

1 1408
2 A LOVE STORY
3 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
4 THREE

ANGELES

1 RISE
2 SINKING of JAPAN
3 CASA
4 THREE

TARLAC

1 A LOVE STORY
2 LICENSE to WED
3 EVAN ALMIGHTY

STARMILLS

1 RISE	4 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
2 SINKING of JAPAN	5 1408
3 A LOVE STORY	6 RUSH HOUR 3

BACOLOD

1 DON'T LOOK BACK	1 DON'T LOOK BACK
2 BLIND DATING	2 THE INVASION
3 A LOVE STORY	3 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
4 THREE	4 A LOVE STORY
5 BORDERTOWN	5 HAIRSPRAY
6 CASA	6 CASA

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DID YOU KNOW...

Foster Child cinema run

BRILLANTE MENDOZA'S "FOSTER CHILD," WHICH PREMIERED AT THE LAST CANNES INternational Film Festival, opens in local cinemas on Sept. 12. Cast as parent-for-hire in Cherry Pie Picache, who won second Best Actress at the 50th Cinema Evaluation International Festival in India for said role. Mendoza says he feels a personal affinity with the movie, "letting an adoptive father myself to a little girl who died brought sadness to my somewhat dreary existence."

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